

G L O S S A R Y

Alexander the Great (356–323 BCE): King of ancient Macedon, who, through brilliant military conquests, created an empire stretching from Egypt to India.

Alldeutscher Verband (Pan-German League): Nationalist organization founded in 1891 to promote German nationalism, expand German territory in Europe and the colonies, and strengthen German economic and imperial might. Its antisemitism, social Darwinism, and expansionistic policy goals had great influence among the wealthy urban middle class and elite, especially in northern Germany. Its connections to these groups, as well as to the imperial government and military, gave it an important role in German politics despite its relatively small membership.

Aryan: A concept of 19th-century anthropology that theorized an “Aryan race” of Caucasians, who traced their descent from an influential prehistorical people of the western Himalayas. German nationalists, including most famously the Nazis, traced a mythic legacy to this ancient supposed master race. They used it to justify their ideology of white supremacy, within which the so-called Nordic race reigned above even the other branches of the Aryans’ supposed descendants. Nazi abuse of the term caused it to fall out of use in academic study.

Bismarck, Otto von (1815–1898): The Prussian statesman who was instrumental in unifying the states of Germany (save Austria) into an empire. He became its most famous chancellor.

Bolsheviks: Faction of the Marxist Russian Social Democratic Labor Party under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin and Alexander Bogdanov, which rose to power in Russia during the October Revolution of 1917. Founders of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, they eventually became the Communist Party of the USSR.

Bolshevism: A popular way, usually derogatory in Germany and Britain, to refer to the communist system and its worldwide political movement.

Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate): Neoclassical triumphal arch built at the beginning of Unter den Linden, one of Berlin’s most magnificent boulevards, by King Frederick William II in Berlin in 1788–1791 as a symbol of peace.

Braunes Haus (Brown House): Munich headquarters of the Nazi Party, nicknamed for the Party's official color scheme, located at 45 Brienner Straße.

Brigade, Brigadeführer: "Brigade," "brigade leader." The SA's organizational and rank structure changed several times. For most of the period this story covers, the brigade level matched the SA's regional organization, in this case for the city of Hamburg.

Bürger: "Citizen," "member of the middle class." A German term historically describing a member of an urban middle class distinct from both farmers and nobles.

Bürgerschaft: "City council" or "citizens' council." The lower house of parliament in the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg and Bremen.

Bürgertum: "Bourgeoisie," "middle class," "citizenry." A German term historically related to the urban, mercantile middle class.

Bürgerverein: "Club" or "assembly of middle-class citizens." A term used for the wide variety of political associations, hobbyists' clubs, intellectual societies, and myriad other groups that many middle-class Germans belonged to in 19th- and early 20th-century Germany.

Carolingian: Early medieval style of architecture and art dating back to the Carolingian Empire (800–880 CE), which occupied much of present-day France and Germany.

Charlemagne (742?–814): King of the Franks who united much of northern Europe, laid the foundations of present-day Germany and France, and was crowned the first emperor of western Europe following the demise of the Roman Empire in the fifth century.

Communism: Socioeconomic system based on the political theory of Karl Marx (1818–1893), which advocated the common ownership of property, collective control of the means of production, and the absence of social classes. Although based on the same principles as socialism, Communism is more comfortable with violent political action, and it has generally been put into practice by a totalitarian state.

Czarism: Autocratic system of government ruled by a czar, a Slavic term for Caesar, or supreme ruler.

Danzig Corridor (Polish Corridor): Running through what was formerly Prussia, the Danzig corridor was a strip of land granted to the Second Republic of Poland (1920–1939) by the Treaty of Versailles (1919) to give Poland access to the Baltic Sea.

Deutsche Demokratische Partei, DDP (German Democratic Party): Party founded in 1918 by members of the former Progressive People's Party (Fortschrittliche Volkspartei) and the left wing of the National Liberal Party (Nazioliberalere Partei). Like the SPD and Zentrum, the DDP was committed to maintaining a republican form of government and protecting ethnic and religious minorities. Though initially popular and influential among the governing classes, it steadily lost votes throughout the Weimar period.

Deutsche Staatspartei, DStP (German State Party): A short-lived political party formed in 1930 as a sort of fusion party for liberal nationalists. It never gained much traction and dissolved itself after supporting the Enabling Act that ended the Republic.

Deutsche Volkspartei, DVP (German People's Party): Party formed in 1918 to represent the center and right-wing factions of the prewar National Liberal Party. As the National Liberals had done in the imperial period, it represented the business interests of major German industrialists, promoted free trade and economic expansion, and opposed socialism. For a time the DVP wielded influence in both opposition to and eventual cooperation with SPD governments, but it lost many seats after 1930. Like most non-Nazi parties, it was abolished after Hitler's rise to power in 1933.

Deutsche Zentrumspartei, Zentrum (Catholic Center Party): A lay Catholic party established in 1870 to prove and uphold the much-contested loyalty of Catholics to the German state. Politically pragmatic, it acknowledged both monarchy and democracy as acceptable forms of state and was thus willing to enter into various coalitions with governing parties. During the Weimar Republic its left-wing faction initially cooperated with the socialists, but shortly before the Republic's fall its right-wing faction participated in the deal that led to Hitler's assumption of absolute power.

Deutschlandlied: The German anthem since 1922, set to music by Joseph Haydn. It is more commonly known as "Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles" ("Germany, Germany, above Everything").

Deutschnationaler Handlungsgehilfenverband, DHV (German Nationalist Workers Association): White-collar workers' union of the Weimar Republic.

Deutschnationale Volkspartei, DNVP (German National People's Party): Most important conservative and nationalist party of the Weimar Republic before the emergence of the Nazi Party. Formed in 1918 from a coalition of monarchists, wealthy capitalists, and landowners, it combined nationalist, antisemitic, and reactionary elements in opposition to both liberal democracy and socialism. Though generally made up of older and less radical members, it eventually cooperated with the Nazi Party.

Deutschvölkischer Schutz und Trutzbund (German Nationalist Protection and Defiance Federation): Radical, active, and influential antisemitic league in the Weimar Republic, many of whose members eventually joined the Nazi Party.

Dienst: "Service." The SA's most favored term for its political activities.

Dolchstoß: "Thrust of a dagger," "stab in the back." A legend popular in nationalist circles was that Germany had lost the Great War because of a lack of support on the home front and traitorous actions by pacifists, socialists, and Jews—what they referred to as the Dolchstoß.

Einwohnerwehr: "Citizens' militia."

Enabling Act: The act was added to the Weimar Constitution in 1933 with an amendment granting the German cabinet the right to pass laws without the approval of the Reichstag. Since the chancellor controlled the cabinet, this law essentially granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial power and ended the Weimar Republic.

Die Fahne Hoch ("Raise the Flag High"): The anthem of the Nazi Party, also known as the "Horst Wessel Lied." After 1930, it became, along with the Deutschlandlied, the co-national anthem of Germany. Its lyrics were composed by Horst Wessel, an SA commander who was killed by a Communist in 1930, thereby becoming the SA's most prominent national martyr.

Fascism: A notoriously difficult term to define that sees widespread but sloppy use, fascism in its basic definition can be considered an ideology of authoritarian ethnic nationalism. Fascism stands in opposition to liberalism, democracy, socialism, and communism. Although often allied with con-

servative parties, fascists share none of conservatism's respect for moderation, tradition, and restraint. Fascist parties instead preach revolutionary violent action, which they justify as the only way to defend a nation and state threatened by enemies. Fascist systems typically prize a sense of wounded nationhood, which they seek to redeem by purging designated enemies. The original fascist states grew in the aftermath of World War I, took power during the Great Depression, and were defeated in World War II. Since the war, few movements openly call themselves fascist, although the combination of radical ethnic nationalism and a belief in the redeeming power of violence continue to motivate political movements.

Frankfurt School: A school of neo-Marxist social scientists associated with the Institute of Social Science at Goethe University in Frankfurt, then organized in exile around the New School in New York.

Frederick the Great (1712–1786): One of the greatest Prussian kings, known for his military exploits, patronage of art and culture, advocacy of enlightened absolutism, and reputed homosexuality.

Freikorps: Literally “free corps,” or voluntary militia. Taking their name from a historic term for volunteer militias in early modern German history, Free Corps units of nationalist veterans formed after World War I to defend German borders, resist attempts at revolution, and attack leftist political movements. Many of their members later drifted to Nazism and the SA.

Frontheil: Greeting common to nationalist war veterans, especially popular in Austria.

Führerstadt: Title given by Hitler to five cities (Berlin, Hamburg, Linz, Munich, and Nuremberg), which he intended to reconstruct and modernize.

Gau: A medieval term for a region analogous to an English shire, revived by the Nazi Party as the basis of its geographic organization. By 1938, all of Germany was divided into 30 Gaue, which became the de facto administrative units of the government.

Gauleiter: The governor of a Gau, or the leader of a regional branch of the Nazi Party. Appointed directly by Hitler, the Gauleiter enjoyed the highest political rank in the Nazi Party, subordinate only to the Reichsleiter and the Führer.

German Faith Movement: A religious movement of the Nazi period that combined German paganism and Nazi ideology. Associated with Jakob Wilhelm Hauer, a professor of religious studies at the University of Tübingen, it promoted Hitler's concept of "blood and soil" (the idea that ethnicity was rooted in blood and territory), the replacement of Christianity with pagan rituals and practices, and the cult of the Führer.

Gleichschaltung: "Synchronization" or "forcible coordination." Literally, "shifting into the same gear," a term used for the process of forcing all individuals and organizations to work in accordance with Nazi policies.

Gnadenkirche: "Church of Holy Mercy." A church in Hamburg's St. Pauli neighborhood.

Götterdämmerung: The last of Richard Wagner's four operas in the Ring Cycle (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*).

Grail Legend: Arthurian legend about medieval knights who attempted to retrieve the vessel (Holy Grail) that Christ used during the Last Supper.

Great Depression: Most severe worldwide economic recession of the 20th century. It began with the U.S. stock market crash of 1929, then spread across the globe with devastating economic and political effects, often strengthening authoritarian political movements.

Great War (World War I): Global war fought between 1914 and 1918, primarily in Europe. The aftermath of this legendarily deadly war saw the fall of several monarchies, the creation of new nation-states, and a general destruction of value systems that created an uncertain future for European nations and set the stage for future conflicts.

Hammonia: Patron goddess of Hamburg who first appeared in the 18th century.

Hanseatic League: A commercial league established in the 14th century by northern European coastal cities to protect their economic interests and diplomatic privileges.

Hansestadt: A city belonging to the Hanseatic League.

Heil Hitler: Literally "Hail Hitler," this was a greeting and salute used by the Nazis.

Heim: "Home" or "hostel." The SA's term for a system of barracks it established to house stormtroopers.

Hilfspolizei: A short-lived auxiliary police force created by the Nazis in February 1933 to supplement police ranks, consolidate the Nazi takeover of the German state, and punish Nazi enemies. The project also functioned as a jobs program for SA men, whose poor behavior in uniform led to its early end.

Hitlerjugend, HJ (Hitler Youth): A Nazi youth organization intended to mobilize and indoctrinate young people into the Party's militaristic and racist ideology. It was eventually composed of three groups: Hitlerjugend for boys ages 14 to 18; Deutsches Jungvolk for younger boys; and Bund Deutscher Mädel for girls ages 10 to 18. After 1936, membership was mandatory for all "Aryan" youth.

Hohenzollern: Dynastic family that ruled the Duchy of Brandenburg-Prussia under the Holy Roman Empire, eventually becoming rulers of the Kingdom of Prussia after much dynastic conflict in the 18th century.

Holy Roman Empire: Christian empire established in western Europe with the coronation of Charlemagne as emperor by the Catholic pope in 800. At its height in the 12th century, the empire's borders encompassed much of modern Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Honoratiorenpolitik: Loosely, "government of notables." A political style found in many transatlantic cities in which a republican oligarchy of mercantile elite leverage social and economic power into political authority.

Jungstahlhelm: Youth division of the Stahlhelm (Steel Helmets).

Kaiser: A German derivative of "Caesar," and the term applied to emperors of the German, Austrian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires.

Kameradschaft: "Camaraderie," "fellowship."

Kampfzeit: Literally "time of struggle," a term used by the Nazi Party to describe the period in which Hitler rose to power (1919–1933).

Kaserne: "Barracks."

Kindskopf: “Overgrown child.”

Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, KPD (Communist Party of Germany): Party founded in 1917 by antiwar members of the SPD. One of the chief political parties in Germany between 1918 and 1933, it embodied the radical left of the German socialist movement. Its members drew inspiration and support from the Bolsheviks in Moscow and sought to replace the Republic with a Communist state along Soviet lines. Hitler banned it shortly after his appointment as chancellor, after which Communists who escaped imprisonment continued as an underground organization.

Konzentrationslager, KZ: “Concentration camp.” A camp in which people are interned under inhumane conditions with no recourse to a fair trial. Although they existed before World War II, they are most commonly associated with the Nazi regime, of which they were an integral feature for incarcerating Jews, political opponents, homosexuals, and other designated enemies of the Nazi Party.

Kristallnacht: “Crystal Night” or “Night of Broken Glass.” A series of coordinated attacks perpetrated by stormtroopers and other Nazis on Jewish synagogues, stores, and other property throughout Germany and Austria on the night of November 9–10, 1938. The term arose from the shattered glass that filled the streets the next day.

Langemarck: Small village in Belgium and site of the First Battle of Ypres, in October and November 1914. Around 2,000 German soldiers died in this early battle, many of them young volunteers who marched into battle singing patriotic songs.

Lenin, Vladimir Ilich (1870–1924): Marxist theorist and leading figure of the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution of 1917. Upon creation of the USSR in 1918, he became its first premier, serving until his death in 1924.

Liberalism: Political philosophy focused on personal and economic liberty and freedom. Through the 19th and early 20th centuries, liberalism became the governing ideology of big business, progress, and civil liberties. In Imperial Germany, the National Liberal Party allied itself with the crown to support nationalism, militarism, and expansionist foreign policy based on the successful models of the United Kingdom and United States. The party’s

demise with Germany's defeat in 1918 led to the formation of two new liberal parties in the country, the DVP (German People's Party) and the DDP (German Democratic Party), both of which supported the republican form of government during the Weimar era.

Lutheranism: A branch of Protestant Christianity based on the teachings and doctrine of the 16th-century German ecclesiastical reformer Martin Luther.

Luxembourg, Rosa (1871–1919): Marxist philosopher and economist of Polish-Jewish descent who immigrated to Germany and cofounded the Spartacus League, a revolutionary group that became the German Communist Party. During the failed Spartacus uprising in 1919, Luxembourg was captured by a Freikorps unit involved in suppressing the uprising; the troop beat her, killed her, and threw her body in a canal.

Männerbund: "Male society."

Marine SA: An SA unit composed of sailors who, without a permanent address on land, did not fall under normal SA geographic organization. It was headquartered in Hamburg, where SA Heime housed the men between assignments at sea.

Marxism: A method of social and economic analysis that focuses on the relations and conflict among social classes. The German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels developed this view in the mid-19th century, based on theories of dialectical materialism: the idea that economic relationships produce social and political outcomes that determine the course of human history.

Märzgefallene: "March casualties." An epithet originally given to the heroic martyrs of the liberal March Revolution of 1848, who perished while fighting Prussian troops in the streets of Vienna and Berlin. After the Nazi rise to power in 1933, stormtroopers who had long fought with the movement applied this term ironically to latecomers, whom the old guard accused of joining the movement only for reasons of self-interest.

Nachhauseweg: "On the way home." For paramilitary organizations in the Weimar Republic, an attack *Nachhauseweg* was one that occurred while members walked home from political meetings, when they could potentially be caught alone or by surprise.

Nationalsozialistische Kraftfahrkorps, NSKK (National Socialist Motor Corps or National Socialist Drivers Corps): Nazi paramilitary organization whose main function was to train men to operate and maintain high-performance vehicles. Originally part of the SA (Motor SA), it became a separate organization after the purge of the SA in July 1934.

Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund, NSDStB (National Socialist Student Union): A branch of the NSDAP founded in 1926 as a student organization for Nazis.

Nazionalsozialismus (National Socialism): A right-wing reinterpretation of socialist ideology in which race or ethnicity replaced class as the defining basis of political conflict and loyalty. Though many different parties and organizations promoted this ideology, the National Socialist German Workers Party (see NSDAP) eventually came to dominate the field.

Nazionalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, NSDAP (Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party): Commonly known as the Nazi Party, the NSDAP was a German political party formed to promote militaristic, racist, antisemitic, and nationalist political goals under the leadership of its Führer, Adolf Hitler (see Fascism). In 1933, after obtaining enough votes to form a coalition government in the Reichstag, the NSDAP engineered its total takeover of the German state.

Nazionalsozialistische Freiheitsbewegung, NSFB (National Socialist Freedom Movement): Short-lived political party in Hamburg created by Nazi Party members in 1924 to continue their activities after authorities banned the NSDAP in the wake of Hitler's failed coup. The NSFB was absorbed into the Nazi Party when the ban was lifted in February 1925.

Neo-Romanesque: An architectural style modeled loosely on western European architecture of the 12th and 13th centuries, which gained popularity in both Germany and the United States in the 19th century.

Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm (1844–1900): German philosopher, cultural critic, and poet whose philosophy and concepts (especially that of the Übermensch, or superman) were selectively adopted and exploited by the Nazis.

NS: Nazis often used this as a shorthand adjective to identify members of the movement: "NS women" would thus mean "Nazi women," or "women who are associated with the Nazi movement."

Nuremberg Laws: A series of antisemitic laws established by the Nazi Party in 1935 that classified Germans according to race. Those with four Aryan grandparents were deemed Germans with full citizens' rights; those with three or four Jewish, Roma, or black grandparents were deprived of German citizenship; those with two or three Aryan grandparents were classified as "Mischlingen" (of mixed race) and placed in an ambiguous category, but they could occasionally be raised to full citizens. The laws also banned intermarriage and sexual relations between members of these different groups, as well as display of the German flag by Jews.

Oberführer: "Senior leader." Roughly equivalent to that of senior colonel in the military. After 1926, it was the official rank granted to an SA leader in charge of a group of paramilitary units.

Oberste SA-Führung, OSAF (Supreme SA Leadership): Headquarters office of the SA as a whole, based in Stuttgart.

Odin: Major god in Norse and Germanic mythology.

Operation Gomorrah: A weeklong strategic bombing campaign over Hamburg carried out by the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Army Air Forces in July 1943. Unusually dry weather conditions and the concentrated heat of the bombs created a firestorm—a vortex of flames that devastated the city, killed 42,600 civilians, and destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes.

Ordnungspolizei: "Order police." The regular law-keeping arm of the police forces in Imperial and Weimar Germany. After 1933, it eventually came under SS control, replacing local police forces and extending itself into occupied territories.

Ortsgruppe: Local Nazi Party group or chapter, a territorial unit encompassing no more than 1,500 households.

Paragraph 175: Provision in Imperial German criminal code that forbade homosexual acts between men but did not apply to women. The Nazis broadened the law in 1935 to apply to any "lewd act" between men, even those without physical contact. The law remained on the books for decades in both postwar German states. The term was often used as a euphemism or shorthand for referring to homosexuality itself.

Parliamentarism: A democratic system of government in which the head of state is not the same as the head of government, who is instead chosen from the ranks of the political party with a majority in the legislature.

Proletarian/Proletariat: Members of the working class in Marxist theory, who work for wages rather than having capital.

Prussia: Originally a small kingdom on the Baltic Sea, Prussia became a major European power in the 18th century, with territories throughout central Europe. The Prussian-led unification of Germany in 1871 made it the center of the new German Empire, and the Prussian king became the German Kaiser. With the empire's fall in 1918, Prussia became the largest state of the Weimar Republic.

Rathaus: Literally, "council house." These town halls were particularly prominent in Hanseatic cities, where they served as centers of democratic governance and economic policy making.

Rathausmarkt: The central square in front of Hamburg's town hall. The Nazis renamed it Adolf-Hitler-Platz from 1933 to 1945.

Reichsbanner: "Flag of the Reich" was the centrist, republican paramilitary in the Weimar era. It was founded by the SPD, the DDP, and the Catholic Center Party (Zentrum) to defend democracy from the extremist paramilitaries of the left (Communist RFB) and right (Nazi SA). Although its members were from all three parties, it became most closely associated with the SPD.

Reichstagsbrandverordnung (Reichstag Fire Decree): Abbreviated term for the Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of People and State, a series of measures passed in the wake of the Reichstag fire of February 27, 1933. These measures severely curtailed German civil liberties, in effect granting Hitler unchecked power to direct the police against political enemies.

Reichmarks, RM: German currency from 1924 to 1948, also used in Austria from 1938 to 1945. Replaced the Papiermark after German inflation hit a peak in 1923.

Der Ring des Nibelungen (Ring Cycle): A cycle of four operas (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*) based on Norse legend and composed by Richard Wagner. Like other Wagner operas, they became strongly connected to German nationalist politics.

Röhmlinge: “Röhm boys.” A derisive term used to mock the sexuality of members of the SA, based on chief of staff Ernst Röhm’s known homosexuality.

Rotfrontkämpferbund, RFB (Red Front Fighting Brigade): The German Communist Party’s paramilitary fighting organization during the Weimar era. It claimed to be a nonpartisan defense mechanism for the working class, though in practice it functioned to protect Communist political gatherings, stage public protests, attack symbols of capitalism, and engage in violent exchanges with the SA and other paramilitary organizations.

SA Heime: Group homes or hostels for members of the SA, catering to young, poor, and unemployed stormtroopers whose economic condition during the Great Depression made them targets of Nazi recruitment.

SA Mann: Literally “SA man,” the term was both a specific rank and a general way to refer to stormtroopers.

Schar: “Squad” or “troop.” The SA’s smallest organizational unit.

Scharführer: “Squad leader.” The title and later the rank were used by paramilitary organizations in the Third Reich, most notably the SA and the SS. In the SA, the Scharführer was the first noncommissioned officer.

Schlageter Bund: Nazi club founded in 1928, named after Leo Schlageter, a member of the resistance to French occupation of the Rhineland after World War I. Schlageter was arrested and executed in 1923, after which he became a martyr to German nationalist movements.

Schutzstaffel, SS (Protection Squadron): A Nazi Party paramilitary unit originally formed in 1923 as an elite guard for Party speakers at political meetings. Under its leader Heinrich Himmler, it became one of the most powerful Nazi institutions, expanding its portfolio to control police and security across Germany and the conquered territories, where it took a leading role in the worst crimes of the Nazi state.

Schwul: “Gay.” Like the English term, this did not see widespread use before the later part of the 20th century, when it replaced the earlier term “homosexual” as a less stigmatizing way to refer to gay men and women.

Social Democrats: See Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands.

Socialism: A socioeconomic ideology concerned with the inequalities of private property and capitalism, which it hopes to solve through greater government control over business and industry.

Soldatentum: "Soldierhood." The lifestyle of being a soldier.

SOPADE: Name of the SPD while in exile after Hitler's takeover in 1933. It operated in Prague, Paris, and London, continually escaping Nazi conquests in hopes of preserving the legacy and influence of German Social Democracy until the war could be won.

Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany): German political party blending democratic and socialist approaches to government. It was founded in 1875, and though outlawed for many years it became Germany's largest party by 1912. It led the Weimar Republic upon its creation in 1918, and throughout the Weimar period was the strongest proponent of the republican form of government. The Nazis banned the SPD after the takeover in 1933. Since its return after the war, it has remained among Germany's most important political parties.

Stahlhelm: Literally "the Steel Helmets," the Stahlhelm or Bund der Frontsoldaten (League of Front Soldiers) was the largest political paramilitary organization in Weimar Germany. It functioned as a social and political veterans group, officially independent of political parties but mainly in support of nationalist and anti-republican forces. After the Nazi takeover of power, it was largely and reluctantly absorbed into the SA.

Standarte: An SA organizational unit roughly equivalent to a regiment (300–500 men).

Standartenführer: A paramilitary rank in various Nazi organizations, including the SA and SS, matching the organizational level of the Standarten.

Sturmabteilung, SA (Storm/Assault Division): Paramilitary wing of the Nazis whose violent tactics became the face of the Nazi Party during its drive for power. Through street battles and propaganda marches that often turned violent, they radicalized political conflict and undermined the stability of the Republic. Its members, the stormtroopers, were also known as Brownshirts owing to the color of their uniforms, and they are generally seen to represent the Nazi movement's socially and economically revolutionary wing.

Stürme/Sturmbanne: Smaller SA units roughly equivalent to a company, they were generally associated with specific neighborhoods.

Sturmführer: “Storm leader” or “assault leader.” A paramilitary rank in the SA, inspired by a military specialty title in World War I. In the SA, it matched the organizational level of the Sturm.

Sturmlokale: Taverns associated with the SA, where stormtroopers held political meetings, enjoyed social gatherings, and planned paramilitary operations. Many taverns in the Weimar era were officially associated with political parties. The Lokale became key sites of violent conflict.

Swastika: This symbol, a cross with bent legs known in German as the twisted cross or *Hakenkreuz*, was originally a sacred symbol of Eastern religions, where it appears as an auspicious symbol on buildings and sacred sites. German mystic nationalists became fascinated with the symbol as a legacy of the Aryan people, which they misconstrued as progenitors of the Germans (see Aryan). Hitler appropriated the swastika symbol for Nazi use, twisting it 45 degrees to create a new image, which in the West is now mistakenly considered its main symbolic importance.

Tacitus (56–after 117 AD): Publius (or Gaius) Cornelius Tacitus was a Roman senator and historian.

Teutonic Knights: A medieval military order established during the Crusades but transformed in the 13th century to a force to spread Christianity in northeastern Europe.

Thermopylae and the 300: Reference to the famous ancient battle fought in 480 BCE between the Persian imperial army of Xerxes I and an alliance of Greek city-states led by King Leonidas of Sparta.

Third Reich: A term popularly used to describe Nazi Germany, whose official name was either the German Reich (1933–1943) or Greater German Reich (1943–1945). The Nazis favored this term for their own state because it legitimized their regime as a successor state to the Holy Roman Empire (the first Reich) and the German Empire of 1871–1818 (the second Reich).

Three-Kaiser Year: The year 1888, when three different German Kaisers occupied the throne. When the long-reigning Wilhelm I died in March, his son

and successor, Frederick III, had already developed terminal cancer. He died in June, leaving his son to assume the throne as Wilhelm II.

Treaty of Versailles: The peace treaty between Germany and the Allied powers, signed on June 28, 1919, seven months after the armistice of November 11, 1918, which had brought the end to World War I. The treaty imposed a variety of punitive terms on Germany, including disarmament, territorial concessions, massive war reparations, and a “War Guilt Clause” that required Germany to accept moral and financial responsibility for the war. The extent of the punishment created lasting resentment among many Germans and encouraged the growth of right-wing political movements, which pledged to repeal them.

Truppführer: “Troop leader.” A paramilitary rank in the SA above a Scharführer and comparable to senior (or first-class) sergeant.

Universum-Film Aktiengesellschaft, UFA: A German film-production company established in 1917 and purchased by the right-wing press baron Alfred Hugenberg in 1933, who transferred it to the Nazi Party.

Valhalla: Mythical land in Norse mythology where the souls of distinguished warriors dwell while they wait to fight alongside Odin in the final battles of the apocalypse.

Vaterstadt: “Hometown,” literally “father-city.”

Verband: “Association,” “club.”

Volk: “People.” Term used by German nationalists to refer to the people of the German race (Germans, Scandinavians, the Dutch, and the English).

Völkisch: “Folkish” or “folkloric.” Cultural and political movement beginning in 19th-century Germany that began as an embrace of the German language and literature for purposes of national unity. Over time, its increasingly extremist advocates combined folklore, history, and mysticism into a political project in the hope of establishing a militant and authoritarian racial state.

Völkisch-Sozialer Block, VSB: A cooperative party list, that is, a list comprising members of different political parties who by joining together in the 1927 parliamentary election hoped to garner more votes.

Volksgemeinschaft: “People’s (or folk) community.” Term for solidarity and community that became popular in Germany during World War I, when it had the connotation of a common purpose and equality among different members of the German nation. The Nazis transformed its associations into a more formal concept of social organization based on codified racial lines.

Wagner, Richard (1813–1883): German Romantic composer and theater producer whose popular and influential operas combined music, drama, poetry, and the visual arts into a “total work of art.” Hitler and other leading Nazis admired Wagner’s music for both its musical and political messages.

Weber, Max (1864–1920): German social scientist often considered one of the most important figures in creating the discipline of sociology.

Wehrverband: “Combat league.”

Weimar Republic: When the Imperial German government fell at the end of World War I, it was replaced by a representative democracy featuring an elected president, an executive cabinet, and a legislature. Although the name of the state technically remained the German Reich, the new Republic was and is most often referred to by the city in which it was founded, Weimar. The Republic lasted until 1933, when Adolf Hitler’s appointment as chancellor began a series of events that eventually ended in his dictatorship.

Wilhelm II (1859–1941): King of Prussia and last emperor of the German Empire, who ruled from 1888 to 1918. Fairly or unfairly, his personal character and idiosyncrasies often are blamed for causing World War I. In the war’s final stage, when German defeat became clear, he abdicated the throne and spent the rest of his life in exile in the Netherlands.

Young Plan: A revised war reparations payment plan, one of several that sought to preserve the punitive terms of the Versailles Treaty by making them less harsh. The Young Plan of 1929, named after the American industrialist who chaired the Reparations Committee, eventually collapsed when the Great Depression made it impossible to expect any further payments from Germany.