The Making of the Modern German State

I. Themes of German History
II. Unification and Empire
III. Weimar and Nazi Era
IV. Establishment of the Federal Republic
V. Reunification
I. Themes of German History

- Type of Government
- Unification of Germany People in German State
- Role of Germany in Europe
- Grappling with the Past in the Present

First two settled; last two still open
II. Unification and Empire

- 1815: 39 German states
  - Prussia (Hohenzollern Monarchy)
  - Austria (Habsburg Monarchy)
- Bismarck and Wars of Unification
  - Denmark (1864); Austria (1866); France (1870)
- German Empire (Second Reich - 1871-1918)
  - Junkers and ‘Marriage of Iron and Rye’
  - ‘Authoritarian Democracy’ and Nationalism
  - World War I and Collapse

The Iron Chancellor
The Weimar Republic
(1918-1933)

- “A Republic without Republicans”
- The “Stab in the Back” Myth
- Reparations and Hyperinflation (1923)
- Ideological Division
- Depression and the Rise of the Nazis (NSDAP)

Germany 1923
Papering the wall with worthless Reichsmarks
The Nazi Era (1933-1945)

- Establishment of Dictatorship
- Centralization of Authority
- Oppression of Jews
- Rejection of Versailles
- Aggression and War
Nazi Oppression of the Jews

- **Kristallnacht**
  (November 1938)

- **Gates of Auschwitz**
  (*Arbeit Macht Frei* – Work Makes You Free)

*Germans in Berlin walk by the broken window of a Jewish shop destroyed during Kristallnacht. November 10, 1938.*
Farthest Axis Advance (September 1942)
Results of the Nazi Era

- Defeat
- Destruction
- Division into East and West

Dresden 1945
IV. Establishment of the Federal Republic

- Occupation and disagreement over German reconstruction
- July 1948: Military governors “recommended” Premiers draft a constitution
  - Elites: fear permanent division (hence ‘Basic Law’)
  - Average German focused on survival; rejected politics
- German Democratic Republic (DDR) in East
  - Berlin Wall 1961

Flag of the DDR
V. Reunification

- Collapse of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
  - Gorbachev: *Perestroika* and *Glasnost*
  - Outflow through the Satellite Countries
  - Protest and Collapse (November 1989)
- Rapid Reunification
- The Problems of a Unified Germany

East meets West as the wall comes down
FRANCE Test Grades

AVG = 37 (74%)  Median = 37 (74%)