

abdication

a monarch giving up his or her throne, as Kaiser Wilhelm II did in November 1918

Abwehr

the intelligence agency of the German High Command

anschluss

term for the union of Austria and Germany; although forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler united these two countries in March 1938

anti semitism

anti-Jewish attitudes, policies or practices

appeasement

the attempt to avoid war by giving in to some of Germany's foreign policy demands in the 1930s

Axis	an alliance formed between Italy, Germany and Japan from 1918-1945
blitzkrieg	lightning war; the military tactic using tanks and air power to beat the enemy, which was used very successfully by the Nazis in Poland in 1939
Dawes Plan	a plan formulated in 1924 by a committee led by American banker Charles Dawes to adjust Germany's reparations payments
dictator	a ruler with absolute authority without hereditary right, unelected
dolchstosslegende	the stab in the back legend; the belief that it had not been the army that had been beaten in the war but that the army had been betrayed by left-wing politicians

einsatzgruppen

special units of the Schutzstaffel whose job it was to go into occupied territories and suppress opposition

Enabling Act

the German government was given special powers under the Constitution to deal with a crisis without having to refer to parliament.

fascism

a form of government that is anti-democratic, anti-communist, nationalistic and based on a one-party state

final solution

the program begun in 1941 to exterminate all the Jews in Europe