

Did the Nazis achieve an economic miracle?

SOURCE INVESTIGATION

This is an unusual source investigation. It is entirely based on statistics. The charts and graphs in Sources 1–8 record the economic performance of Germany between 1933 and 1939.

Stage 1

To help you decide if Germany achieved an economic miracle answer the questions below. For each question you will first need to identify which source will help you. Some sources will help you answer more than one question. For some questions you will need to refer back to the information on pages 122–27.

Imports/exports

For a strong economy you need to export more than you import.

1. What happened to Germany's balance of trade?

Unemployment

For a strong economy you need to reduce unemployment.

2. What happened to unemployment under the Nazis?

3. How do the figures for industrial production help explain the trend in unemployment?

Government spending

For a strong economy the government needs to spend its money wisely.

4. Why did the government debt rise?

5. What was the government spending its money on?

Investment

For a strong economy you need to invest money in industry.

6. When did investment return to the level it was at before the Depression (in 1928)?

Production

A strong economy needs a wide range of industries and should not be too dependent on one sector.

7. When had most industries overtaken 1928 production levels?

8. Which industry recovered the most slowly?

Workers

For a strong economy you need to pay good wages to your workers, so that they in turn can become consumers.

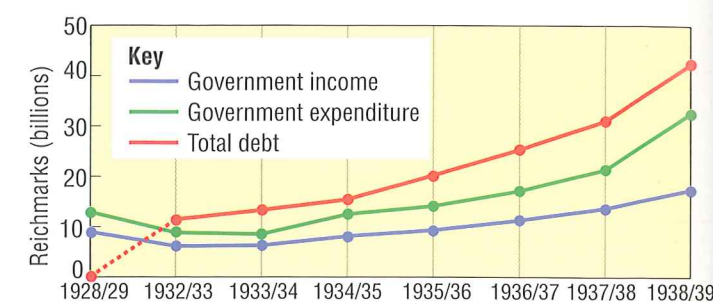
9. Did people's earnings increase or decrease between 1933 and 1938?

10. When were earnings at their highest between 1928 and 1938?

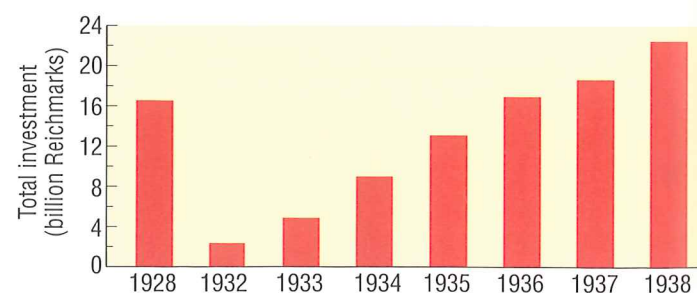
11. Were people better off under the Nazis than before?

12. Did the diet of working-class families improve or get worse between 1927 and 1937?

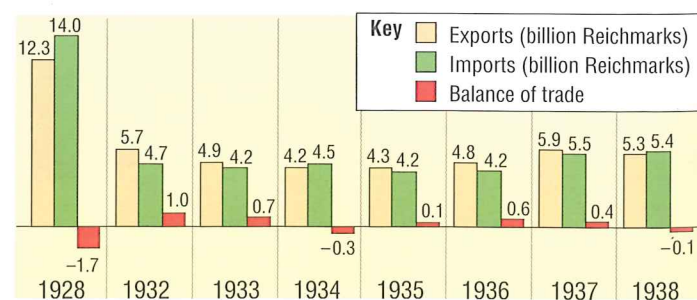
13. Why do you think this was so?



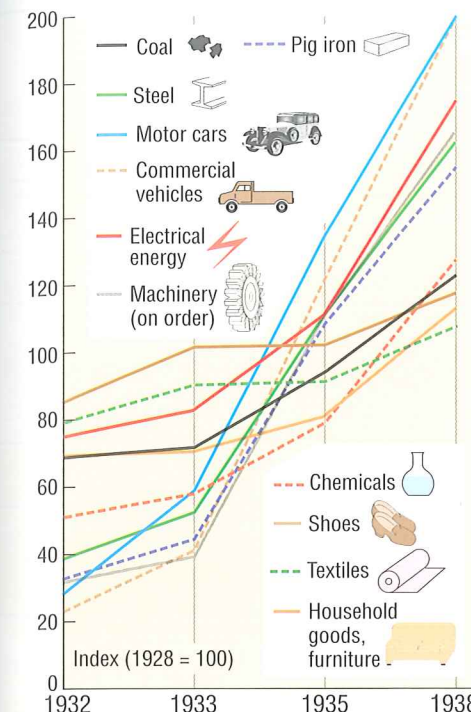
SOURCE 1 Government income, expenditure and total debt 1928–38



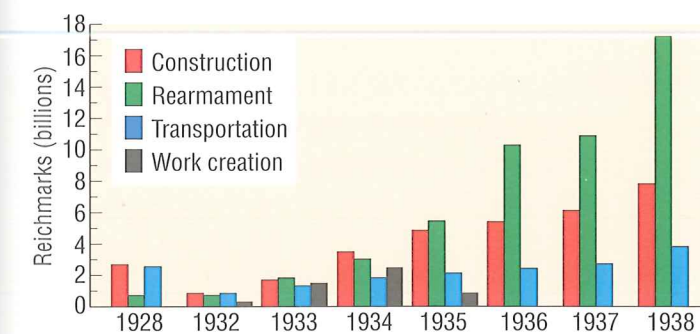
SOURCE 2 Investment by government and private institutions 1928–38



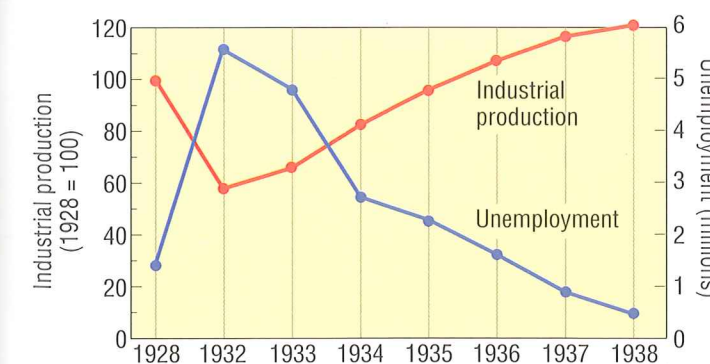
SOURCE 3 German trade 1928–38



SOURCE 4 Index of production for selected German industries 1932–38



SOURCE 6 How the government spent its money 1928–38

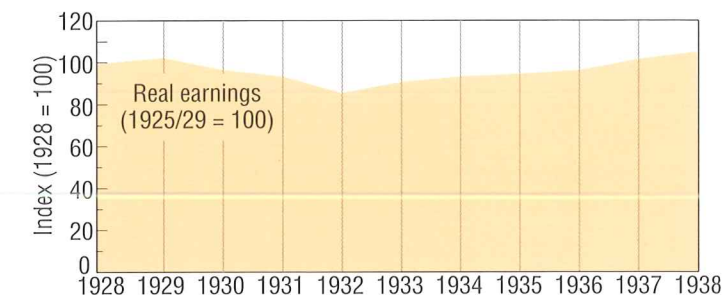


SOURCE 7 Industrial production and unemployment 1928–38

DID THE NAZIS ACHIEVE AN ECONOMIC MIRACLE?



SOURCE 5 Annual food consumption in working-class families, 1927 and 1937



SOURCE 8 Real wages in Germany 1928–38 (that is, wages adjusted to allow for inflation)

Stage 2

When you have completed the questions write your own account by describing:

- how the economy improved between 1933 and 1939
- how the economic situation compared with that of 1928.

Reach your own conclusion as to

- whether the Nazis had achieved their own objectives
- whether they had created a strong economy.
- Finally, explain

- the strengths
- the weaknesses

of statistical information such as Sources 1–8 in answering these questions.