

CHRONOLOGY

- 1878 Gustav Stresemann born in Berlin as the youngest of eight children to Ernst August Stresemann, a Berlin-based distributor of bottled beer, and his wife Mathilde.
- 1884–1897 Attends the Andreas Real-Gymnasium in Berlin.
- 1897 *Abitur* (graduation exam). Enrollment in the philosophy department of the Friedrich Wilhelms University of Berlin (today Humboldt University). Joins the reform fraternity Neogermania.
- 1898 University of Leipzig. Editor of the *Allgemeine Deutsche-Universitäts-Zeitung*.
- 1901 Doctoral Degree. Title of his PhD dissertation: “Die Entwicklung des Berliner Flaschenbiergeschäfts” (The Development of the Berlin Bottled-Beer Industry).
Assistant at the Verband Deutscher Schokoladefabrikanten (Association of German Chocolate Manufacturers) in Dresden. Networks and establishes contacts.
- 1902 Managing director of the BdI (League of Industrialists), Dresden-Bautzen district branch. Temporarily member of the National Social Association.
Foundation of the VSI (Association of Saxon Industrialists). Stresemann becomes a legal adviser for the association and keeps this post until 1918.
- 1903 Joins the National Liberal Party.
Marriage to Käte Kleefeld (born 1883). Two sons: Wolfgang (1904–1994) and Joachim (1908–1999).
- 1906 Dresden City Councilor.
Foundation of the DIV (Association for the Protection of German Industry).

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- 1907 Elected Reichstag member for the district of Annaberg-Schwarzenberg.
 - 1910 Member of the BdI executive board; moves to Berlin.
 - 1911 Adoption of the Insurance Law for Salaried Employees.
 - 1912 Stresemann loses his seat in the Reichstag and on the standing committee of the National Liberal Party.
Travels to the United States.
 - 1914 Elected member of the Reichstag, special elections in Wittmund-Aurich.
 - 1914–1918 World War I.
 - 1917 Fall of Bethmann Hollweg.
Elected deputy chairman of the central executive committee of the NLP and chairman of the National Liberal parliamentary group of the Reichstag.
 - 1918 November Revolution.
Merger of liberal parties fails. Foundation of the DVP.
 - 1919 Member of the Constituent National Assembly.
Personal crisis, long-term illness.
 - 1920 Reichstag elections. Stresemann becomes chairman of the parliamentary group and chairman of the foreign committee of the Reichstag.
Publication of his poems under the title *Traumjörg*.
 - 1923 Occupation of the Ruhr area by French and Belgian troops.
Stresemann delivers some important Reichstag speeches. Entry into the Freemason Lodge “Friedrich the Great.”
Appointed Reich chancellor and foreign minister of a grand coalition between SPD, DVP, DDP, and the Center Party.
Political crisis in Germany: hyperinflation, currency reform, putsch attempt in Bavaria by Hitler and Ludendorff, termination of passive resistance.
Sachsenschlag: unseats the left-wing governments in Saxony and Thuringia, break of the grand coalition, with the SPD leaving the government.

- Return of the Crown Prince to Germany aided by Stresemann.
Stresemann becomes foreign minister and keeps this post until his death.
- 1924 Dawes Plan, beginning of economic stabilization period in Germany.
- 1925 Trade policy restrictions stipulated by the Treaty of Versailles come to an end.
Hindenburg elected Reich president.
Locarno Treaties, “Crown Prince letter.”
- 1926 Germany’s entry into the League of Nations.
Stresemann awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
IRG (International Raw Steel Community).
- 1927 Plauen trial. Stresemann acquitted of corruption charge.
- 1928 Honorary doctorate from the University of Heidelberg.
Severe illnesses, mild stroke.
- 1929 Last speech at the League of Nations.
Stresemann dies of a stroke.