

Year 9 History - Hitler's rise to power

SECTION 1 – Key words

Weimar Republic	Democratic government set up after the abdication of the Kaiser, led by F. Ebert
Reichstag	The German Parliament
Chancellor	Like a Prime minister appointed by the President
Communism	People do not own land, factories, or machinery. Instead, the government or the whole community owns these things. Everyone is supposed to share the wealth that they create.
Fascism	Fascism is a right-wing form of government in which most of the country's power is held by one ruler
Constitution	Rules for how Germany was to be governed as a democracy

Section 2 - Adolf Hitler – Profile



Early life

1889- Born in Austria. Unhappy at school. He is moody, shy and lonely. Poor at most subjects (except gym and art)

1903 –Father dies - Leaves school without any qualifications

1907- Mother dies. Goes to Vienna. Fails to gain a place at Academy of Fine Arts. Struggles to make any money and lives rough

1914- Joins the Germany army. Fights in WW1 as a messenger and wins the Iron Cross for bravery

1918- Angry to hear of Germany's surrender- feels betrayed by the government

Political Life

1919- Sent to spy on the German Workers' Party. Agrees with their ideas

1920 – Helps to rewrite their political programme. Party is renamed the National Socialist German Workers' party (Nazi Party)

1921- Becomes leader and sets up the SA, the Nazi Party's private army. Support for the Nazi party grows. By 1922, 20,000 members

1923- Munich Putsch – Nazis try to overthrow the government by force but fail in the short term (see section 3)

1924 – In prison Hitler writes Mein Kampf (My Struggle). This outlines his main ideas about how Germany should be ruled. He is released from prison early and starts to rebuild the Nazi party improving the way it is organised and changing its tactics. His aim now is to use democratic means rather than force, to get into power

1928 - General Election. Nazis got under 3% of the overall votes in the election. Although membership of the Nazi Party has almost doubled between 1923-1928, the vast majority of Germans do not appear to be attracted to the Nazi Party. The reasons for this were that most of the working classes voted for the Social Democratic Party or if not the Communist Party, the Chancellor Stresemann had solved the economic problems Germany had faced in 1923, and people felt better off. Also many people were put off by Hitler's extreme ideas. They were put off by the anti semetic ideas and the talk of invading other countries.

1929. The Wall Street crash changed things all of this. When the US stock market crashed it led to many problems in the US. People lost confidence to invest, which meant businesses lost money and many people were unemployed. USA asked for the money back they had loaned Germany during 1923. This impacted badly on Germany and by 1933 6 million people were unemployed. This economic crisis gave Hitler the opportunity he was looking for to gain more votes by promising the German people he would end the crisis.

1933 – People started voting for the Nazis making the biggest party in the Reichstag, leaving the President no option but to make Hitler **Chancellor**.

1934- President Hindenburg died, and Hitler combined the position of Chancellor and President to become Fuhrer of Germany

Section 3 – The Munich Putsch 1923

WHO? The Nazi party led by Hitler and General Ludendorff (a popular WW1 hero). There were 55,000 Nazi members and their own private army the SA.

WHY? Hitler and the Nazis hated democracy. They planned to take over Germany by force.

WHAT? The Nazis planned to take over the government and set General Ludendorff as leader of Germany. They started in Munich. Hitler and 600 of his SA burst into a meeting where the leader of Bavaria Von Kahr was speaking. They forced Kahr to support their plan.

SUCCESS? The Putsch was badly planned - Kahr left the meeting and informed the government. The Nazis were met by armed police and soldiers- 14 Nazis were killed. Hitler was arrested- the Putsch had failed. Hitler was put on trial but he impressed the judges by his speech which gave Hitler lots of publicity and led to a reduced prison sentence of 5 years and then cut to 9 months. Hitler had learned a very important lesson – taking control by force wouldn't work- he would have to take control through the democratic process.

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Section 4 - Hitler's rise to power can be explained through

a) the Nazis and their own actions

Nazi Propaganda (main reason why support grew). Organised by Josef Goebbels Nazis used the latest technology to spread their message. This included loud speakers and rallies gave the impression of discipline and order. They used powerful propaganda posters with simple slogans to spread their key ideas

Organisation- Nazis were well organised, which impressed voters. Money for their election campaigns came from rich businessmen and ordinary members. Nazi members worked hard in their locality to spread the message through leaflets and public meetings

Section 5 – Further research

Bitesize-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/search?q=hitlers+rise+to+power>

PLUS

<https://www.mrallsophistory.com/revision/the-rise-of-hitler->

and

b) the events that they had no control over

The Wall Street Crash led to a terrible crisis in Germany and explains why many people started voting for Hitler. Many businesses went bankrupt and by 1932, 6 million people were unemployed. It made the government look weak. They couldn't decide what to do and when they did they actually cut back on the money they spent to help the poor. The Depression made people very angry. They blame the political parties governing the country and the democratic way the Weimar Republic was being governed. People started to support more extremist parties like the Nazis and the Communists

Weak Opposition. Nazis were lucky because their opponents were so weak. The Communists and the Social Democratic party were bitter enemies and not prepared to work together to stop the Nazis. They gave the impression of a weak government that couldn't solve the economic problems

Fear of Communism. Many people particularly farmers and business owners voted for the Nazis because they were scared that the German Communist party the largest outside of the USSR would take over the country. They voted for the Nazis to stop them

Hitler's leadership skills played a crucial role in the Nazis rise to power. His speeches gave the Nazis a great deal of support. He came across as a strong leader who could solve Germany's problems

Nazi Promises- they said what people wanted to hear, to solve Germany's economic problems, provide strong leadership, ignore the Treaty of Versailles, build up the army and make Germany a great country again. They promised something for everyone.

A Political Deal. The Nazis were the biggest party but didn't have a majority. Hitler did a deal with Papan the leader of the Catholic Centre party. Hitler would be Chancellor and Papan, Vice Chancellor. This was supported by Hindenburg and business owners -they thought Papan not Hitler would control the government

