

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1819-1939

PART TWO: Hitler's rise to power 1919-33

1919 Hitler joins the German Workers' Party	1920 Hitler sets up the Nazi Party	1921 Hitler introduces the SA	1923 The Munich Putsch	1925 <i>Mein Kampf published</i>	1926 Bamberg Conference	1928 Nazis win 12 seats in the Reichstag	1929 Death of Stresemann & Wall Street Crash	1930 Nazis win 107 seats in the Reichstag	1932 July Nazis win 230 seats in the Reichstag, Papen becomes Chancellor	Jan 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor
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Key Words	Definitions
Aryan	Nazi term for a non-Jewish German, someone of supposedly 'pure' German stock
Capitalism	An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods depend of private investment
Centre Party (ZP)	A Catholic party occupying the political middle ground
Communist Party (DAP)	The German Communist Party, following the ideas of Karl Marx
(DAP)	The German Workers' Party: precursor to the Nazi party
Freikorps	Private armies set up by German army officers at the end of the First World War. Mainly comprised ex-soldiers.
Fuhrerprinzip	The leadership principle; the idea that the Nazi Party and Germany should have one leader, obeyed by all
Great Depression	Slump in the economy in the 1930s which led to high unemployment
Indoctrinating	Converting people to your ideas using education and propaganda
Manifesto	A public declaration of a political party's policies
Reichswehr	German army and navy
SA (Sturmabteilung)	The paramilitary 'storm troopers' of the Nazi Party
Scapegoat	A person or a group made to take the blame for others
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	Main left-wing party, supported mainly by the working class
Socialist	Those who believe in state ownership
Trade Union	Organisations set up to protect and improve the rights of workers
Wall Street Crash	29 October 1929, when more than 16 million shares were traded in panic selling, triggering further sales and leading to a world economic crisis

From a GCSE textbook, B. Walsh, published in 1996

The Nazis won increased support after 1929 due to Hitler. He was their greatest campaigning asset. He was a powerful speaker and was years ahead of his time as a communicator. He travelled by plane on a hectic tour of rallies all over Germany. He appeared as a dynamic man of the moment, the leader of a modern party with modern ideas. At the same time, he was able to appear to be the man of the people, someone who knew and understood the people and their problems. Nazi support rocketed.



What do I need to know?

From *Modern World History* by T. Hewitt, J. McCabe and A. Mendum, published in 1999

The Depression was the main reason for increased support for the Nazis. The government was taken by surprise at the speed and extent of the Depression. It also had very few answers as how to deal with it. The Depression brought out all the weaknesses of the Weimar Republic, which seemed to be incapable of doing anything to end it. It is not surprisingly that the German people began to listen to parties promising to do something. In particular, they began to look to and support the Nazis.



Spellings for PART TWO: Hitler's rise to power 1919-33

Spellings for this part of the unit have been set for you to practise and learn. You will have a test in lesson time at some point during this part of the unit and a test online.

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| 1. Hitler | 11. Putsch |
| 2. dictatorship | 12. Hindenburg |
| 3. depression | 13. Propaganda |
| 4. Fuhrer | 14. Nationalism |
| 5. Lebensraum | 15. Socialism |
| 6. Stormtroopers | 16. paramilitary |
| 7. Brownshirts | 17. reorganisation |
| 8. intimidation | 18. Aryan |
| 9. programme | 19. Mein Kampf |
| 10. Munich | 20/ Chancellor |

Hitler's early career

Hitler was born in Austria in 1889. When he was sixteen he went to Vienna to become an artist but this did not work out. From 1908 – 1913 he was out on the streets and this is when his hatred of the Jews started:

1. Antisemitism was widespread in Vienna
2. Hitler was envious of the wealthy Jews and blamed them for his own problems.

In 1914 Hitler joined the German army. He found it hard to accept the Armistice, believing that Germany would have won the war if they had not have been betrayed by politicians.

Hitler came across the German Workers Party (DAP) which was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party in 1920.

The early growth of the Nazi Party

Hitler was good at public speaking and in February 1920 he was put in charge of recruitment and propaganda. By 1921 he was strong enough to take over the leadership of the party.

- The political meetings generated much violence. Protection squads were used to protect Nazi speakers. These developed into the Sturmabteilung (SA) in 1921. It attracted many ex-soldiers, especially from the Freikorps.
- By 1922 the Nazi Party had 6000 members, rising to 500,000 two years later.
- The Nazi Party drew up a Twenty-Five Point Programme, this was their political manifesto.

The Munich Putsch

Hitler made his first attempt to overthrow the Weimar government in November 1923. This was known as the Munich Putsch. **Reasons for the Munich Putsch** → Reparations, resentment of the Weimar government, 'stab in the back', Hitler was influenced by Mussolini, Hyperinflation.

Consequences → Hitler was put in prison. The putsch had failed due to lack of support. But Hitler did use his trial to publicise his views and he spent his time in prison writing Mein Kampf.

The lean years

The Nazi Party survived in secret until the ban was lifted in 1924.

Unemployment and its impact

In October 1929, The Wall Street Crash led to US loans being recalled and as a result, many German businesses sacked workers and were forced to close. By 1932 over 6 million people were unemployed. The Weimar Republic failed to deal with unemployment and lost support.

Growth in support for the Nazis

In the September 1930 elections, the Nazi Party won 107 seats and by July 1932 it was the largest party with 230 seats. This increased support was due to several reasons:

1. **Hitler:** Hitler used Weimar's weaknesses to strengthen his party. He also provided people with a scapegoat – blaming the Jew's for Germany's problems.
2. **The SA:** By 1931 the SA numbered 600,000 and was used to intimidate any opposition.
3. **Goebbels:** Josef Goebbels was the master of propaganda and used every possible method to get the Nazi message across.

Political developments in 1932

The Weimar government was further weakened in 1932.

- Franz von Papen, a friend of President Hindenburg was appointed Chancellor, but he only had 86 supporters in the Reichstag.
- July 1932 The Nazi's won 230 seats and became the largest party in the Reichstag.
- On 31st January 1933 Hindenburg invited Hitler to become Chancellor.