

The Rise of Hitler and NAZI Germany

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The Rise of Nazi Germany: The SS-State

Adolf Hitler and his political cronies formed the N.S.D.A.P. (Nationalsozialistische Deutsch Arbeiterpartei, or "Nazi" Party) in early 1920s. In 1923 the Nazis tested their power by attempting to take over the government of the state of Bavaria in the "Beer Hall Putsch." Hitler was arrested and served time in Landsberg prison, where he wrote **Mein Kampf** ("My Struggle.") Hitler was released after less than a year, and the Nazi Party gradually gained strength in the late 1920s and early 1930s thirties through the use of the **Sturmabteilung** (Storm Troopers or S.A. known as the brown-shirts from their uniforms), which whipped up enthusiasm for the Nazis and intimidated other political groups. Hitler successfully exploited the general discontent in Germany which had arisen because of economic problems and the festering resentment over the Versailles Treaty.



1933: When the Nazis grew too strong to be ignored, having become the second largest party in Germany, Hitler was invited by German President Hindenburg to become Chancellor in a coalition government. Soon thereafter the **Reichstag** fire was used to expel the Communists from the **Reichstag** (Parliament.) Hitler used Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution to get the legislative process suspended, and from that time forward he ruled Germany by decree. Hitler then combined the offices of President and Chancellor, abandoned both and began calling himself "The Leader" (*Der Fuehrer*.) Then he forced all Army officers to swear an oath of personal allegiance to himself. The Nazi takeover was swift and thorough: Freedom of the press ended—Nazi organs carried news and distributed propaganda. In the last free election in Germany in March, 1933, the Nazis got 44% of the vote.

Hitler then used the *Schuetzstaffel*, the S.S., a special body guard within the S.A., to eliminate his political enemies. The S.S. eventually grew to over one million men and reached into every facet of German public life having political significance, through direct controls, infiltration, informants and intimidation. High school and university professors were purged unless they followed the party line. History was rewritten, extolling the virtues of ancient Germans such as "Karl der Grosse" (Charles the Great, otherwise known as Charlemagne.) The Secret State Police (*Gestapo*) were a sub-unit of the S.S. that dominated all German police forces down to the local level. Germans became enamored with Hitler, but many were frightened of what Germany had become, a totalitarian state. Dissent was no longer tolerated; the S.S. became the guardian of Aryan purity, a state within a state.

Note: Avoid seeing the S.S. as super-efficient, well-oiled machine. There was much incompetence, petty bickering, waste, foolishness, backbiting. Reinhard Heydrich, Gestapo Chief, was keeping a dossier on the whole ménage; he was finally assassinated in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, by Czech commandos, and everyone in the town was executed in retaliation.

Significant Events in Germany's Rise

1934. "The Night of the Long Knives."

To purge the Nazi party of men whom Hitler saw as too ambitious for his good, if not for their own, he ordered the S.S. to go out and ruthlessly assassinate hundreds of party leaders during a single night, including S.A. leader Ernst Röhm, leaving a residue of those whose loyalty he could trust. This organized murder campaign operated with disregard for the law, for the simple reason that Hitler's S.S., led by Heinrich Himmler, and the *Gestapo* had spread its tentacles into the entire German legal and law enforcement system. The Nazi party was rapidly becoming the law, designed with but one purpose, which was to do Hitler's will.

Rearmament .

After Hitler consolidated his power in 1933-34, he began moving gradually to restore Germany's military might. Using the S.S. to carry out various forms of coercion by blackmail or whatever means sufficed, Hitler removed top generals who were unsympathetic to the Nazi goals and replaced them with generals open to the idea of expansion by force. Hitler used the Hitler Jugend—"Hitler Youth," a kind of Nazi boy scout organization that was mandatory for teenaged youth—as a means of preparing German boys to enter military service, and the German education system in schools and universities was saturated with Nazi philosophy, so that junior enlisted men and officers were also indoctrinated in Hitler's goals.

Even though many top German officers disapproved of Hitler and his methods, the rapid expansion of the Army and the need to develop contingency plans kept high-ranking staff officers busy so that they would not have time to be overly concerned about politics.

As a result, the German officer corps, which since the time of Frederick the Great had adhered to the mission of protecting the German state from all enemies, internal or external, failed in its duty by allowing Hitler to bend its will to Nazi ends. No other German institution had the power to stop Hitler.

With the generals on board, Hitler renounced the restrictions of the Versailles Treaty and began the rearmament process. The German army, which had been limited to a strength of 100,000, was rapidly expanded, using the existing Army as a cadre from which to build a much larger force compatible with Hitler's designs. In 1935 Hitler resumed the draft, raising the army to 500,000 for "defense." The army was streamlined and condensed; every officer and NCO was ready to assume higher rank and responsibility as the ranks filled. Factories began turning out weapons and military vehicles, and the shipyards turned to rebuilding the German Navy. Submarine production went into high gear, and the massive battleship **Bismarck** was launched in 1939.

1935 Nuremberg Laws .

In September 1935 the Reichstag began passage of a series of laws that stripped Jewish people of their citizenship and basic human rights. From that time on, Jews would be unable to escape intensified persecution. Marriage between Jews and non-Jewish Germans was prohibited, as were extramarital relations between Jews and gentiles. Jews were not allowed to fly the German flag or to display Reich colors. Citizenship became limited to "only that subject of German or kindred blood who proves by his conduct that he is willing and suited loyally to serve the German people and the Reich." A November 1935 law declared that "A Jew cannot be a Reich citizen. He is not entitled to the right to vote on political matters; he cannot hold public office."

1936 .

Hitler took complete control of German foreign policy. His goals included the readjustment of eastern boundaries and the restoration of Germany to great power status. He repudiated the Locarno Treaty and ordered the army to reoccupy the Rhineland in violation of Versailles Treaty. The General Staff was reluctant to carry out the order, arguing that the army was not yet prepared for a confrontation with the French. Hitler ridiculed his officers to their faces, declaring them cowardly and announcing that the French and British would do nothing, and that his officer corps needed to take on his fearless demeanor. The Rhineland was reoccupied, the French and British did nothing, and the League of Nations denounced Hitler's action but also took no action, with the result that Hitler was emboldened to go further.

1936 The Spanish Civil War.

When a leftist government took over Spain, the Army under General Francisco Franco rebelled. Germany and Italy rallied to Franco's cause, which they identified as having common goals with their fascist philosophies, and the conflict became a testing ground for German and Italian soldiers, pilots, weapons, technology, and tactics. The U.S., Great Britain and France decided to stay out to "localize" the conflict, but Russia supported the central government. Franco's forces were victorious in 1939. The Spanish Civil War clearly demonstrated that the United States was now prevented from helping even friendly nations.

1937

In 1937 Hitler continued his campaign of purging Germany of what he saw as the poisonous influence of the Jews. The S.S., cooperating police forces now under the heel of the S.S. and hired thugs, carried out what became known as Kristallnacht—the “Night of Broken Glass.” Windows of Jewish businesses were smashed, Jews were dragged out of their homes and beaten, arrested, hauled away and otherwise terrorized. The world was beginning to see Nazism for what it really was.

1938

In March Hitler completed the annexation (*Anschluss*) of Austria. He announced as one of his major goals the unification of all German speaking peoples under a common flag. Following an intensive propaganda campaign in Austria, supported by Austrian officials sympathetic to the Nazi movement, the German army, again over the protests of the General staff who declared they were not yet ready for action, moved into Austria. But instead of being greeted with animosity, Hitler rode through the streets of Vienna in an open car, returning the *Sieg Heil* salute given along the way and waving to thousands of Austrians, who in return waved Nazi flags and cheered Hitler as he rode by triumphantly. (Hitler had been born in Austria and was returning “home.”)



Appeasement.

The next crisis in European affairs focused on Germany's neighbor, Czechoslovakia. In the Czech Sudetenland lived 3.5 million German-speaking people, the Sudeten Germans. Hitler's threats to take over the Sudetenland caused British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to travel to Germany to meet with Hitler in an attempt to resolve the crisis, telling Hitler his proposals were not acceptable. When Hitler refused to back down, Italian Premier Benito Mussolini suggested that Hitler hold a four-power conference of Germany, Britain, France and Italy in Munich.

On September 29, 1938, Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier capitulated to Hitler's demand for the Sudetenland. In return, Hitler promised not to make any further territorial demands in Europe. It was a grievous error. Chamberlain returned to Great Britain claiming "Peace for our Time," but it was to be short lived. Within a few months Hitler swallowed the rest of Czechoslovakia, and at that point France and Great Britain decided that Hitler had gone too far, but the policy of appeasement had backfired. All it demonstrated was that aggressor nations' appetites are only whetted further by capitulation to their demands.

1939

In August 1939 German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop engineered a Non-aggression Pact with The Soviet Union's Josef Stalin, clearing the way for German invasion of Poland. The S.S. concocted a phony incident along the German-Polish border, and again, having mounted a lengthy anti-Polish propaganda campaign, full of virulent anti-Polish ethnic degradation, the German Wehrmacht rolled across the border on September 1, demonstrating to the world for the first time the tactics that would become known as *Blitzkrieg*. On September 3 France and Great Britain declared war on Germany. The campaign in was over in a matter of weeks, long before France and Great Britain were capable of any kind of military action. While the Russians were taking advantage of their pact with Hitler to invade Finland, which held out until March 1940, the rest of the war came to a halt. During the winter of 1939-1940 the war was called a phony war or "*Sitzkrieg*" as nothing of any significance happened aside from the SS beginning its ethnic cleansing of Warsaw and the rest of Poland.

The failure of Appeasement:

How did Hitler succeed?

- Hitler had a well-mapped out plan (*Mein Kampf*) and was good at politics and rhetoric.
- Hitler drew on tradition, evoking old notions of Germanic greatness—the Wagnerian themes: *Volk, Blut, Einheit*. (People, Blood, Unity.) The first empire had been the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations, the second the Empire declared by Bismarck after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. Hitler's was the be the Third Reich, the 1000-year empire.
- Hitler's program emphasized Prussian discipline, loyalty to state.
- The Nazis tapped into historic and pseudo-scientific prejudices against Jews, Slavs, other "*Minderwertigen*" ("unworthies.") Anti-Semitism in Europe was neither new nor unpopular and had a long history.
- National Socialism created an alliance between German government and business; industry remained in

private hands, but production was directed toward the needs of the state.

- Nazi practices appealed to the masses through such things as government-mandated cheap vacations: "*Kraft durch Freude*,"—strength through joy. Hitler ordered auto makers to produce a cheap people's car, the People's Car or *Volkswagen*.
- The Nazis exploited middle class fears of communism and promised power to army conservatives who hated the Weimar Constitution.
- The Nazis organized massive parades and ceremonies, with patriotic speeches; Hitler was a powerful, captivating speaker. For the 1936 Nuremberg rally organizers used a ring of searchlights around the stadium pointed straight up the create the illusion of an ice palace; the audience was estimated at 200,000.
- Hitler's rearmament, creation of the Autobahns and other public works took care of the jobless.
- Hitler had luck. Things broke favorably in political world, such as the timely (for Hitler) death of President Hindenburg, etc. Von Blomberg, the Minister of Defense, was a Nazi sympathizer. Hitler skillfully manipulated potential enemies into supporters.

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Europe at War

1939. In August 1939 German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop engineered a Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet Union's Josef Stalin, clearing the way for German invasion of Poland. Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels mounted a virulent, lengthy anti-Polish propaganda campaign, full of degrading anti-Polish ethnic rhetoric, and the S.S. concocted a phony incident along the German-Polish border.

On **September 1, 1939**, the German *Wehrmacht* rolled across the Polish border and demonstrated to the world for the first time the tactics that would become known as ***Blitzkrieg***. World War II in Europe had begun.

On September 3 France and Great Britain declared war on Germany, but the campaign in Poland was over in a matter of weeks, long before France and Great Britain were capable of any kind of military action. While the Russians were taking advantage of their pact with Hitler to invade Finland, which held out until March 1940, the rest of the war came to a halt. During the winter of 1939-1940 the war was called a phony war or "**Sitzkrieg**" as nothing of any significance happened aside from the SS beginning its ethnic cleansing of Warsaw and the rest of Poland.

1940

In the spring of 1940 Hitler invaded Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands. Then his army rolled through Belgium and flanked the French Maginot Line, a defensive wall built at the cost of millions of francs per mile, and France capitulated in six weeks. Hitler accepted the French surrender in the very same spot on which Germany had surrendered in 1918, after which he did a gleeful little jig, reveling in his moment of revenge. While Germany was attacking France, Italy declared war on France, causing President Roosevelt to claim that, "On this tenth day of June, 1940, the hand that held the dagger has struck it into the back of its neighbor."

Hitler's Plan for Great Britain:

Operation **Seelöwe** (Sea Lion.)

With France occupied and the French Vichy government more or less in collaboration with Germany, Hitler now stood "astride the European continent like a colossus." Neutral Spain was friendly to Germany, and neutral Sweden was no threat. Soviet Russia was engaged with the Finns, and Hitler now turned his attention to Great Britain, which had not been successfully invaded since the Norman conquest of 1066. The accomplish the feat Germany would have to achieve air control over the English Channel was necessary, and Hitler ordered Goring's Luftwaffe to prepare the way. The resulting air war became known as the Battle of Britain, which was won by the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) and about which Winston Churchill said, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

Infuriated by the failure and determined to break the British will, Hitler ordered a bombing campaign which was known as the "Blitz of London," and German bombers rained destruction on British cities night after night during the winter of 1940-41.

1941

In June 1941 Hitler, still frustrated, turned his wrath against his former partner, the Soviet Union, his fatal mistake. (Napoleon had made the same miscalculation in 1812.) Although German Panzer units initially drove deep into the heart of Russia, the Russian winter and the huge Soviet Army ultimately proved to be too much for Hitler's Wehrmacht. With the loss of an army of 600,000 men at Stalingrad in late 1942-43, the tide in Europe turned, and the huge Russian army, supplied heavily by American industry, began to drive the Germans off Russian soil and back towards Berlin.

December 11, 1941. After Pearl Harbor Hitler declared war on the U.S., which along with the Soviet victory at Stalingrad sealed Germany's fate.

WORLD WAR II: 1941-1945: CHRONOLOGY

1937

July 7. Hostilities begin between Japan and China, though war is not formally declared. Nanking falls to the Japanese in December. The war in China continues through 1945.

1939

September 1. World War II begins in Europe when Germany invades Poland. Warsaw capitulates September 27. Great Britain and France declare war September 3.

November. Russia attacks Finland, is expelled from the League of Nations.

Little activity after Poland falls ("Sitzkrieg")

1940

April. Germany invades Denmark and Norway.

May 10. Without warning German forces invade Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. German armies enter France within a few days. Italy declares war on France on June 10. France falls June 22, and the Vichy government cooperates with Nazi Germany.

May-June. Over 330,000 French and British troops evacuated from Dunkirk. The Battle of Britain, a fight for control of air space over the English Channel and Great Britain, begins. Success of the RAF leads to the Blitz of London.

The U.S. begins economic and military aid to Great Britain.

1941

Germans invade Balkans, Yugoslavia surrenders. Germans enter Athens in April.

June 22. Germany invades the Soviet Union.

Concerning British support of Russia: "If Hitler invaded hell, I would make at least a favorable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons."—Churchill.

FDR also agrees to aid Russia--\$1B in Lend Lease goods authorized.

June. Italians defeated in East Africa. Germans arrive to bolster Italian forces.

August: Roosevelt and Churchill confer in Newfoundland, producing Atlantic Charter

Dec 7—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Germany declares war on the U.S. on December 11.

The Atlantic Charter

August 14, 1941

In August 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met aboard warships in Argentia Bay, Newfoundland, to discuss joint war aims. It was the first time the two men had met. Churchill was anxious to gain assurance that the assistance of the powerful but still neutral United States would continue, and Roosevelt sought to gain British support for his policies to avoid a showdown with the Japanese. Aside from those general issues there was no agenda, and the talks were informal. The two leaders did, however, sign the "Atlantic Charter," below. Roosevelt's signature aroused anger among the remaining isolationists in the U.S. who wondered how the president of a neutral nation could agree to what some described as war aims. Others saw it as an enlightened statement of principles about what the two nations hoped the ongoing worldwide struggle would achieve.

The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First, their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, they will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security;

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

[SIGNED]

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Winston S. Churchill

1942

Question after U.S. enters war is where and when to attack: across English Channel or at "soft underbelly." U.S. wants to go across early, feels that a North African invasion is "unsound." Churchill concerned about British interests in the Suez, etc.

FDR orders Japanese to be moved to "relocation centers."

April 9: Philippine Islands fall to Japan.

18 April. General Jimmy Doolittle leads a bombing raid on Tokyo with B-25 aircraft launched from the U.S.S. Hornet.

30 May. German city of Cologne attacked by over 1,000 bombers.

7-8 May The Battle of the Coral Sea stops the Japanese advance in the Pacific. First naval battle in which ships are out of sight of each other.

3-6 June. Battle of Midway. The 1st major Japanese defeat—they lose 4 carriers. Restores naval balance in Pacific, allows U.S. to take the offensive.

10 June. Villiage of Lidice, Czechoslovakia destroyed in retaliation for assassination of SS General Heydrich.

June - 13 Sept. German summer offensive in Russia eventually reaches Rostov, Stalingrad.

June, 1942, British disaster occurs in North Africa at the hands of Rommel. 33,000 surrender at Tobruk; 75,000 casualties during summer of 1942. But: Rommel's logistics problems are worsening. The Germans are vulnerable.

October 23–November 4. Decisive Battle of El Alamein, a great victory for Field Marshal Montgomery over Rommel, but Germans are not at their peak. The Suez is safe, the Mediterranean under British control.

Aug 7 - Feb 1943. Guadalcanal. 1st Major U.S. offensive of war.

November 8. Operation TORCH: U.S. forces under Eisenhower land in North Africa. Planning had begun in August, 1942. Tough going early on—Kasserine Pass defeat in February, 1943, is bad for U.S. troops, who are overrun. Coordination poor, plans confused, etc.

Individual (green) soldiers fought well. Patton and Bradley moved up in command structure, dead wood tossed out. (See film, "Patton")

19 November. Russian counteroffensive begins on the Stalingrad front.

1943

January. Casablanca Conference—Churchill and FDR agree on goal of “unconditional surrender.” Critics will later claim it prolonged Axis resistance.

2 February. 20 German divisions surrender at Stalingrad. 600,000 men lost.

13 May. North African campaign formally ends as last German troops surrender. 250,000 Axis troops surrender. U.S. casualties 18,500.

11 July - 17 Aug: Allied invasion of Sicily. Month-long bombardment. Germans and Italians evacuate much equipment, defense not especially strong.

1943 July 24: Mussolini overthrown. Armistice with Italy reached September 3.

Sept 8: Salerno. OPERATION AVALANCHE. U.S. Fifth Army (General Mark Clark), VI Corps. Tough operation as U.S., Great Britain unable to consolidate beachheads. Kesselring counterattacks, allied positions desperate. Reinforcement, air, naval gunfire save beachhead. Italy looked easy, but was not. Took 8 months to get to Rome.

Nov 24: Tarawa in the Pacific secured by Marines. Costly battle.

November: FDR, Churchill, Chiang Kai-shek, Stalin pledge defeat of Japan and agree on invasion plans at Cairo and Tehran Conferences.

1944

In the Pacific, U.S forces take the Marshall and Marianas Islands as part of the island-hopping campaign. MacArthur advances through Indonesia toward the Philippines.

In 1944 Germans lose 180,000 square miles in Russia.

Jan 22: Anzio. Follow-on invasion of Italy.

June 6: Operation Overlord. D-Day. The Allied invasion of Normandy is the largest and most complicated military operation ever conducted. Thousands of men, ships, planes take part, and hundreds of thousands of tons of equipment and supplies are moved across the Channel and ashore in the early days. ("The Longest Day"; "Saving Private Ryan.")

August 15. Operation Dragoon—Allied invasion of Southern France to take pressure off the Normandy area.

August 25: Liberation of Paris led by General De Gaulle.

23-25 October. Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Pacific.

24 Nov. U.S. B-29s begin attacking Tokyo from Saipan.

Dec 16-26: Battle of the Bulge. Surprise attack catches American unaware, costs many U.S. casualties, but Germans lack supplies, cannot sustain offensive.

1945

By January the Americans are in Luzon in the Philippines.

February. Yalta (Crimea) Agreement signed by FDR, Churchill, Stalin establishes basis for occupation of Germany, returns to Soviet Union lands taken by Germany and Japan.

19 February. Invasion of Iwo Jima.

1 April. Invasion of Okinawa

8 May. V-E Day. Germany surrenders.

Berlin-Potsdam Conference—Truman, Churchill, Atlee (after July 28), Stalin create council to prepare peace treaties

and plan for postwar Germany. New German government will be created in 1949.

End of War in Japan:

- 6 August. Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
- 8 August. Russia declares war on Japan.
- 9 August. Nagasaki is bombed.
- 10 August. Japanese offer to surrender.

15 August. V-J Day—the war is over. Japan formally surrenders aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay in September. General MacArthur accepts the surrender on behalf of the Allies.

ISSUES OF WORLD WAR II

- The Value of Intelligence
 - Pearl Harbor: Who knew what and when?
 - "The Man Who Never Was": Counterintelligence plan fooled Germans about Operation Dragoon.
 - The Battle of the Bulge: Lack of aerial reconnaissance let Germans surprise US forces.
 - Impact on D-Day: Germans not convinced it was the "real thing" until too late because of deceptive measures taken.
- The Value of Technology
 - An engineer in every squad: US troops improvised "on the spot."
 - Radar and other inventions changed the odds.
- The Air War over Germany and Japan: Dresden and Hiroshima
 - 30 May 1942 1,000 plane raid on Cologne.
 - Regensburg and Schweinfurt
 - February 1945: The attack on Dresden kills over 100,000.
- American Industry: The war was won in Detroit ...
 - America supplies about 30% of all allied materiel used in World War II
- THE HOLOCAUST: "Lest we forget . . . "

Rise of Hitler

Origins of the Nazi Party

The Nazi Party was formed in January 1919 by Anton Drexler. Originally it was named the German Workers Party (DAP). Hitler joined in Autumn of 1919. He quickly rose to become the leader of the party. The party was transformed by Hitler and became a political party rather than the discussion group that it had been when he joined. The SA (Brownshirts) was formed to protect Hitler and other party leaders at meetings. It also disrupted the meetings of the Nazi's political opponents.

Appeal of the Nazi Party

The military uniform of the SA appealed to many former soldiers. The aggressive berating of the Weimar leadership for signing the treaty of Versailles appealed to the disaffected and to former soldiers. Use of force and the parties strict discipline appealed to those who longed for a return to the old, militaristic rule that had preceded the First World War.

Munich Putsch

The party attempted to take control of the government by force. This failed as the Nazi's did not enjoy widespread support at the time. The government was capable of controlling the armed forces and police. Hitler was imprisoned as a result of the Putsch (Uprising).

In Prison Hitler thought about the methods he had used to try and take control. He realised that the Nazi's would need to use legitimate, electoral means to assume power and that the appeal of his party would need to be widespread in order to achieve this. As a result he wrote "Meine Kampf". This book outlines Hitler's beliefs.

Upon being released from prison Hitler started to reorganise the party. The SS (Blackshirts) were introduced as his own personal bodyguard: they later became a much larger organisation with many functions. People were employed within the party to work on strategy and the delivery of an aggressive advertising campaign (propaganda). This included Goebbels.

Campaigning and the Rise to Chancellorship

The Nazi's rise can be linked with the economic problems faced by Germany. They offered radical solutions to the economic crisis. Ignoring the treaty of Versailles and protecting the country from communism appealed to a wide range of people. Other policies included, but were not restricted to: Public works, anti-semiticism, reorganisation of the labour corps (workers), redistribution of wealth (welfare policies, how they help those in need). Economic policy was focussed on big business and manufacturing.

The majority of the policies were populist (appealed to many people). The policies were advertised on the radio, at rallies, through leaflet distribution and through a show of strength.

The appeal of the party grew as the Weimar government failed to deal effectively with the economic crisis that followed the Wall Street Crash, was ineffective in dealing with thuggery on the streets and had no answers to charges of incompetence in government. Other extremist parties also rose in popularity at the time.

Propaganda

Goebbels masterminded the Nazi's use of the media. Large, well orchestrated rallies were arranged. These gave the impression of strength and made use of much militaristic imagery. Large rallies were filmed. This meant that the wider population was given the impression that the party were strong, well organised and well supported. These rallies, along with use of the Radio, also made great use of Hitler's ability as a public speaker. Hitler's oratory (speeches) focussed on things that the population would want to hear. He believed that short, simple messages, regularly repeated, would win over the bulk of the population. Posters were also used to convey these messages.

Change of Approach

The failure of the Munich Putsch was described by Hitler as actually being a lucky break. He learnt from the failure and emerged more focussed and determined to succeed. The Putsch had been an attempted coup. Hitler now realised that this form of approach would not be widely supported. In prison he began to develop an ideology and approach that would enable the party to win widespread support from the people, enabling a rise to power through democratic means. This process involved altering the way that the parties ideology was presented, using the SA in a more discreet manner and developing the use of the Media.

Why 1933?

The Wall Street Crash brought Germany's economic improvement to a rapid end. The aid from America stopped. Industry struggled to cope under the new economic pressures and many were forced into liquidation. This resulted in many job losses, a lack of faith in investment opportunities and a devaluing of the German Currency. The Weimar Government was a coalition government. The parties within it failed to agree on several key areas and were therefore unable to make the changes to the economy that were necessary to halt the economic downturn.

This situation allowed extremist groups, such as the Nazi's and Communists, to exploit the situation. They offered solutions that had not been tried, the Nazi's also appeared to be strong. Both of these were things that were liked by large sections of the population. The growth of the communist party at this time (a direct result of the Wall Street Crash) led to an increased fear of a communist takeover. Hitler's party were able to use their extreme opposition to communism to gain support from industrialists, and gained votes from many who feared a communist state.

The continued economic crisis into the early 1930's led to a loss of faith within some of the other political parties. These groups were less willing to work together than they had been previously and weak coalitions failed to inspire confidence in democracy. Imagery and bold promises led to increased support and belief in Hitler and his party. None of these factors were in place before 1929's Economic Crash.

Overview and Key points:

- Democracy was seen to be failing in Germany.
- Hitler offered a radical solution.
- Force was used to overcome opponents.
- Effective use of Propaganda.
- Manipulation of the system and bribery were commonplace.
- Sectoral appeal was broad.
- The Nazi's NEVER gained an electoral majority in an open election.
- Hitler was invited to become chancellor of Germany by politicians from other parties who believed that they could control him.
- Few people realised the lengths to which the Nazi's would take their anti-semiticism.

Nazi Germany - Economic Policy

Aims of Nazi Economic Policy: There were several overriding aims of economic policy. These were: to reduce unemployment, increase productivity and to ensure that the currency was safe. More specific Nazi aims include, but are not restricted to:

- To enable Germany to be ready to go to war
- Reduce to a minimum the amount of goods needing to be imported.
- Maintain a reasonable standard of living and rate of pay for Germans.

Policy in Practice:

- Increased the size of the armed forces.
- Began rearmament programme (air force, naval constructions and investment in weapons such as Panzer tanks).
- Continuation and expansion of the autobahn (motorway) building programme.
- Forced focus on manufactured goods.
- Selective importation policy. Buy from cheap, third world countries and pay 'in kind'.

Other Policies that have Economic Implications:

- Lebensraum (living space) and the (re)-creation of a greater Germany.

The Ruhr valley and the Rhineland were reoccupied by German troops. This meant that industry was once more under German (Nazi) control. Anschluss (merger with Austria) leads to greater availability of raw materials. Cession (taking) of parts of Czechoslovakia provides further raw materials. Later the invasion of Poland would provide cheap labour, raw materials and space in which to expand the economic markets.

- Anti-Semitism (anti-jewish policies). Resulted in large amounts of revenue and resources being reassigned to the state. Also unemployed Jews would no longer be classed as being 'unemployed'.

Tackling unemployment: some methods

- Armed forces expanded.
- Militarisation programme leads to jobs in manufacturing.
- Public works such as the Autobahns required lots of workers.

Was Hitler Successful?

- Unemployment fell to approximately half a million by the outbreak of war.
- Currency was stable and investment rose.
- Infra structure was in place to enable economic expansion.
- Manufacturing base was established and functioning relatively effectively.

BUT

- Rates of pay were no higher in 1939 than they had been in 1928. (Remember that they had slumped though)
- Hours worked rose and workers rights were diminished.
- Few luxury items available, consumer goods also a rarity.

Other factors

- Payment of reparations ended, this enabled investment in Germany.
- German recovery from the wall street crash is comparable to that of other countries, the world wide economy improved at a similar rate to that of Germany: so outside factors may have influenced growth.

Things to revise and remember:

1933. Initial policy. Cautious moves towards rearmament
1934. Four Year Plan
Investment in military increases 1936-1939.
Anti-Semitism, Jewish property confiscated and redistributed following Kristallnacht

Nazi Germany - Social Policy

Youth and Education.

Nazis wanted to control young people and secure their support for the future. They did this by changing what children learnt in school and creating 'out of school' youth movements.

EDUCATION

The German Minister of Education (Bernhard Rust) said "The whole purpose of education is to create Nazis." To do this the Nazis changed the school curriculum to contain what they saw as the main needs, military skills for boys and domestic skills for the girls.

The Nazis placed great emphasis on the learning of:

- History - to show the greatness of the Nazis.
- Biology - to teach 'race science' which highlighted the superiority of the Aryans.
- PE - to get boys fit for the Army and girls fit to be mothers.

To ensure that the German youth were taught correctly, all teachers had to swear loyalty to Hitler and join the *Nazis Teachers League*.

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

Membership to Nazi Youth Movements was made compulsory. These were for young people of a variety of ages. There were separate groups for boys and girls, these groups put an emphasis on different aspects of life and they were taught different things depending upon which group they were involved in. Boys went on outdoor activities such as hiking and camping., and then later were taught more about ideology and military training. Girls were taught how to care for their health and prepare for motherhood.

Boys:

Pimpf (Boys aged 6-10)

Deutschejugvolk (German Young People, boys aged 10-14)

Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth, boys aged 14-18)

Girls:

Jungmadel (Young Maidens, girls to the ages of 14)

Bund Deutscher Madel (League of German Maidens, girls ages 14-21)

Activities of these groups were shown in Propaganda films as being very popular. The numbers in the movements gradually increased but the attitudes of the members of the groups were sometimes different to those of the Nazis.

Although the Nazis killed off many other official youth groups which had been attached to other political parties. But during the war several other groups developed in Germany which the Nazis saw as rebellious and a threat because they didn't behave as the Nazis wanted them to.

POLICIES FOR WOMEN

Most of the advances towards equal rights and opportunities made by women in the Weimar Republic were removed. There was no equality. Laws were made to ensure that women stayed at home and many employers were encouraged to give all jobs to men. Therefore many women were forced out of their jobs, the first women this happened to were women doctors and civil servants. The number of teachers declined and no more were allowed to become lecturers at universities. From 1936 no woman was allowed to be a judge or prosecutor as they were unable to think logically.

Nazis had definite idea about the role of women in society, their place was very much in the home as child-bearers and supporters of their husbands. Nazi Policies for women were based on the 3 K's, Kinder, Kirche, Kuche (Children, Church and the Kitchen)

- Encouraged by loans, family allowances and child subsidies to stay at home
- Women were also given medals if they had a large family (Motherhood Cross System)
- Nazis banned birth control clinics, contraceptive and abortion
- Word "family" was only given to households with 4 or more children

Reactions

- some always believed that their role was a domestic one and would have voted for Hitler in the first place
- others may have been converted to the Nazi idea and been proud of the new status of motherhood.
- others were resentful because they had no choice in their new role
- and some protested, and joined opposition groups because they believed:
 - Women would remain unfulfilled
 - Women were deprived of vital experience
 - Women had talents of particular types of employment.

BUT by the end of the 30's and during the war years many women were employed as factory workers because of the shortage of labour and the special advantages to employers because women could be paid less

WERE THERE ANY BENEFITS FOR THE FAMILY?

Fulfilled two main purposes

- 1) it was the basic social unit in which Nazi ideas would be put in practice
- 2) it the means by which Hitler could achieve one of his main objectives
 - the rapid expansion of the German population

BUT

- Sterilization of those seen as not racially pure (i.e. those who suffered from mental illness, epilepsy or blindness)
- Pressures on couple might have been psychologically damaging

Minority Groups (Social Outcasts)

Those who threatened the 'purity' of the Aryan Race in any way.

1) Jews

- main target of persecution
- relatively quiet periods but some sudden upturns
- importance of Nuremberg Laws 1935
- relevance of the Olympic games,
- removal of public signs against Jews for Olympics
- increased persecution 1937 onwards

2) Gypsies

- were targets because of mixed race and travelling lifestyle
- two attacks on personal freedom
 - 1) were made to give up travelling
 - 2) were sterilized to prevent them having families
- majority of gypsies were exterminated along side the Jews

3) The Insane

- mentally ill were also considered a threat to Aryan purity.
- each patient was sterilized
- measures also included euthanasia and 'mercy killings' by use of injection of carbon monoxide gas.

4) Tramps and Beggars

- they had no fixed home or work
- called 'community aliens'
- forcibly integrated or removed from society
- up to 500,000 were put to forced labour
- some were also sterilized

5) Homosexuals

- homosexuality despised by the Nazis
- Many homosexuals in SA (including Rohm), but they were protected by being members of huge organisations which choose to ignore their activities.
- individual homosexuals were arrested by the Gestapo and sent to concentration camps and forced to wear a pink badges
- often beaten up by other prisoners
- some also compulsorily sterilized

6) Alcoholics

- heavy drinking discouraged
- decline in alcohol consumption
- suspects humiliated by having their heads shaved
- persistent offenders were sent to concentration camps.