

Hitler and Nazi Germany

Thinking on Your Own

As you read this lesson, take bulleted notes on the ways that Hitler gained and kept power. Title your notes "Hitler's Policies." When you finish the lesson, compare your notes with that of a partner. Add any new concepts to your list.

The conditions that helped Adolf Hitler take over Germany were similar to those that helped Mussolini. Germans were angered at their treatment by the Allies at the Paris Peace Conference. German nationalists wanted the land that was taken from them under the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was also suffering from the worldwide depression. However, the Allies insisted that Germany continue to pay the huge reparations called for by the treaty.

focus your reading

Describe how Hitler gained absolute power in Germany.

Explain the policies of the Nazi government.

List examples of the ways in which Hitler persecuted the Jews.

vocabulary

Nazi Party

concentration camp

anti-Semite

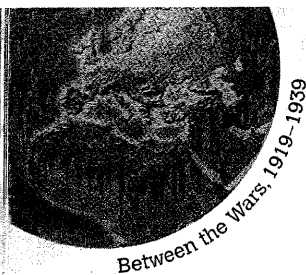
genocide

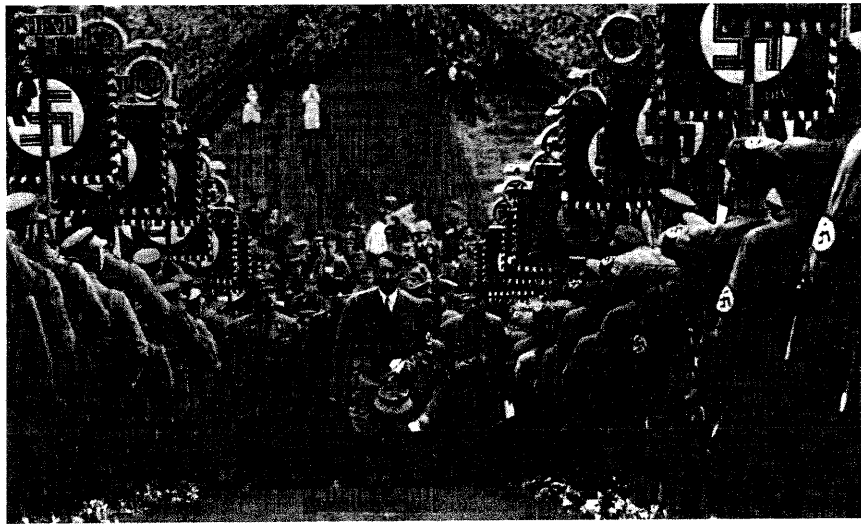
Inflation was so severe in Germany that money was used to light a stove.

Hitler's Rise to Power

After the war, many nationalist political parties were developing in Germany. Adolf Hitler joined one of them, the small National Socialist German Workers' Party. The name was eventually changed to the **Nazi Party**. By 1921, he headed the party. Two years later the party tried to overthrow the German government. Nothing came of the uprising, and Hitler was sent to jail.

After his prison term, Hitler set out to make the Nazis the most powerful political party in Germany. By 1929,





Adolph Hitler preparing to address a crowd

Between the Wars, 1919-1939

its membership had expanded from 27,000 to 178,000. Like Mussolini, Hitler appealed to nationalists. If Germans followed him, he promised to stop the payment of reparations. He would rebuild the German military. Germany would create a new empire. Like Mussolini, Hitler also appealed to business leaders and large landowners. He promised security from a Communist takeover and an end to the depression.

At the beginning of 1933, the president of the German Republic was forced to make Hitler chancellor. The Nazis had

Inflation in Germany

U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley spent September 19, 1922, in Kehl, Germany. In this excerpt, Hemingway describes how high prices were because of inflation.

“[W]e changed some French money in the railway station at Kehl. For 10 francs I received 670 marks. Ten francs amounted to about 90 cents . . . The 90 cents lasted . . . for a day of heavy spending and . . . we had 120 marks left!

“We picked out five very good-looking apples and gave the woman a 50 mark note. . . . A very nice-looking, white-bearded old gentleman saw us . . . and raised his hat.

“Pardon me . . . how much were the apples?”

“I . . . told him 12 marks.

“He . . . shook his head, ‘I can’t pay it. It is too much.’

reading for understanding

How many marks did Hemingway receive for 10 francs?

Why wasn’t the man able to buy apples?

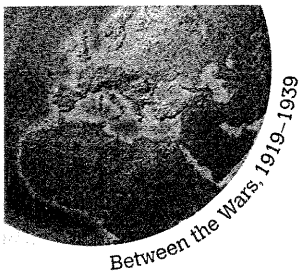
How do you think Germans felt about not being able to buy basics like food?

“With marks at 800 to a dollar, or 8 to a cent, . . . [p]eas were 18 marks a pound, beans 16 marks. . . . Kehl’s best hotel . . . served a five-course . . . meal for 120 marks, which amounts to 15 cents in our money.”

定地造
佛各禮
蘭西地非
西人堂醫
人宜居人
居

Handwritten notes in Chinese characters, including the word 'Source' written vertically.

Source



won a majority of seats in the German Parliament. Hitler acted quickly to cement his power. He had Parliament suspend the constitution. Hitler no longer needed the legislature to make laws. The law was whatever Hitler decided it was. With the support of the Nazi Party, Hitler created a dictatorship. Germans began calling him Der Fuhrer, or the leader.

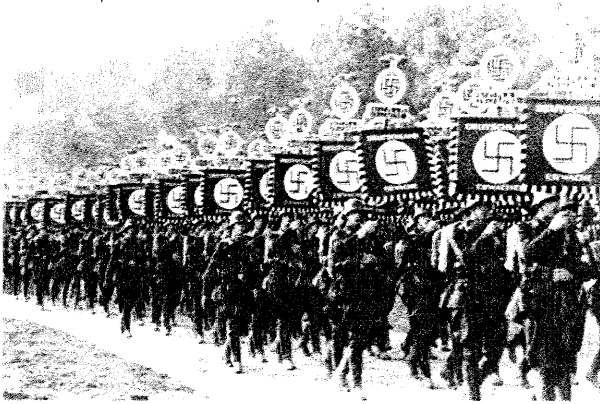
stop and think

Create a sequence flowchart to track how Hitler came to power. Share your flowchart with a partner. Ask your partner to check it to make sure it has all the events in order. Discuss which events caused other events.

The Nazi Government

By 1934, there was no one who could challenge Hitler. The only political party allowed in Germany was the Nazi Party. Labor unions were banned. Hitler used terror and propaganda to maintain control and achieve his policies. The Gestapo, his secret police, spied on possible enemies. Anyone who opposed Hitler's ideas could be sent to a **concentration camp**—a type of prison camp. This was the beginning of the persecution of Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, Roman Catholics, and others.

SS troops in 1933



Hitler had promised to end the depression. Unlike Stalin, Hitler did not do away with private industry. But like Mussolini, he did control business and labor. The government set up massive public works projects to employ people. It also provided funding to private industry to create jobs. Hitler also stopped World War I reparation payments and set about re-arming Germany. Thousands of jobs were created to help build and equip the military.

A constant chorus of propaganda urged Germans to support the Third Reich. This was Hitler's name for the new German empire. Youth groups trained young men in military discipline and values. Like Mussolini, Hitler discouraged women from working outside the home.

A Nazi youth group





Anti-Semitism

Hitler was a fanatical anti-Semite. He hated Jews. Hitler had developed a theory that Germans were descended from a pure Aryan race. To Hitler, this was the master race, superior to all other races. Jews in Germany

were the master race. He also blamed the Jews for the problems of the country. In the beginning, Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jews from the country. Later, he turned to **genocide**, the killing of all members of an ethnic group.

The Nuremberg Laws stripped Jewish German citizenship. Jews could no longer marry non-Germans. Jewish Jews were also forbidden to wear the Star of David on their clothing as Jews.

On November 9, 1938, is known as the Night of Broken Glass. In Paris, a young Jew had shot a German. He was taking revenge for the death of his parents in Germany. The shooting was used as an excuse to attack Jews.

During Kristallnacht, homes, and synagogues were destroyed. Jews were beaten in the streets, and many were murdered. After the violence, some Jewish men were sent to concentration camps.

The violence that followed. German Jews could not ride in public places. They could not attend or teach in schools. They could not work in stores or in hospitals.



Time Box

- 1921
Hitler took over Nazi Party
- 1933
Hitler named chancellor of Germany
- 1935
Nuremberg Laws
- 1938
Kristallnacht

The aftermath of Kristallnacht