

How Hitler came to power



Germany after World War I

Germany was devastated after World War I

- Death
- Destruction of Property
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Hunger
- Strikes and Riots

Treaty of Versailles

Germany had to sign the hated Treaty of Versailles. They had to

Take the blame for starting the war

Pay reparations

Have a small army with no navy or air force

Loose territory to France and Poland

- This made them angry

Reparations

This was the money they had to pay to France and Britain

- They were not able to invest in their own industry
- They printed money that had no worth
- Prices went up very fast this is called inflation
- Savings were worthless

In 1914 marks to £1 was 20

In 1923 it was
16,000,000,000,000

Recovery

After time Germany recovered from the war

- Factories reopened
- People had jobs

Democracy might work

But

"Germany is dancing on a volcano. If the short term credits (loans) are called in a large section of our economy would collapse."

Great Depression

Wall street crash

- Banks lost all their money
- Factories closed
- 1932 5 million out of a job
- People were hungry and homeless
- They were desperate

The government did little to help

Some no longer able to afford rent moved to shanty towns on the edge of cities.

Soup kitchens were set up.

This chaos led to the growth of extreme parties.

Some joined Communist groups other joined Hitler's Nazi's and Storm Troopers

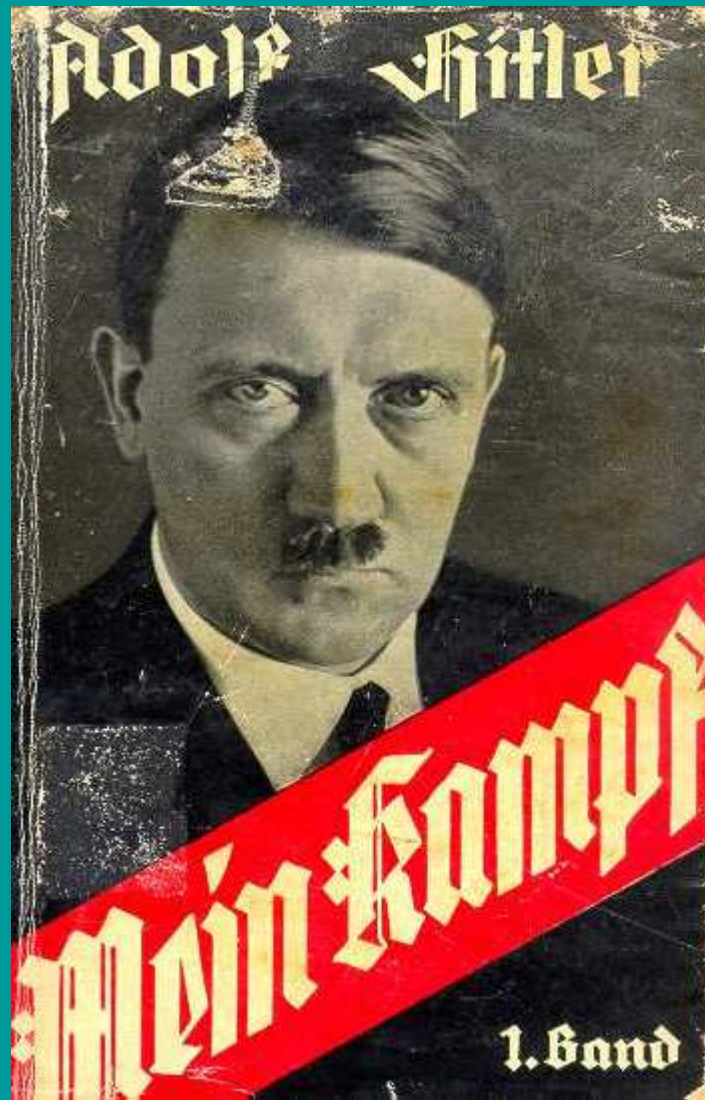
MeanwhileHitler

Hitler set up a new party called the NAZI Party. They were fascists

- Fascists hated democracy they thought it was weak
- They believed in one strong leader
- They wanted to stop the spread of communism

Mein Kampf

1. The Versailles treaty should be torn up
2. Only one strong party one leader
3. Lebensraum or living space for all the German to form a great German empire
4. Master race they were the best race all others were inferior
5. Jews and communists weakened Germany and must be destroyed



On his release from prison he built up the party with branches all over the country

The SA or storm troopers were a paramilitary wing dressed in a uniform of Brown shirts.

The SS were his bodyguards.

He also set up Hitler youth and Women's leagues.

Hitler gains support

He appealed to

- **Nationalists** as he wanted to unite the German speaking people.
- **Anti Communists** this pleased middle class and industrialists and he used violence against them.
- **Industrialists and business** they also financed him

Democracy Fails

- Between 1930 - 1932, there were 3 elections and several changes of government
- In the 1930 elections, there was a shift in popularity to the **extremist parties**
- The Communists secured 77 seats, up from 54
- Nazis, down to 12 seats before the election, secured 107 seats

Propaganda

Hitler was an outstanding speaker "*to be a leader means to be able to move the masses*"

- Used slogans
- Uniforms, salutes and mass rallies showed strength and discipline in a time of chaos.
- Used films and gramophone records of speeches.

He gains power

- Once in power Hitler established a dictatorship
- How did he do that?

Reichstag Fire

In 1933 the Reichstag burned down, Hitler used it as an excuse to blame the communist party



Enabling Act

- In 1933 he passed an enabling act which allowed him to rule without the aid of parliament
- All political parties were banned except the Nazi party

Propaganda

- All newspapers, radio and cinema were placed under Nazi control

Hitler was now in complete charge





Gestapo

- His secret Police the Gestapo dealt ruthlessly with undesirables or his enemies
- On the night of the Long Knives the Gestapo slaughtered many of those who were thought to be a threat to Hitler

