

GCSE History

Weimar and Nazi Germany Key Topic Two Hitler's rise to power 1919-1933



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The DAP:

Small political group founded in January 1919

Led by Anton Drexler

Had only 23 members and very little money

DAP views:

- Blamed the Communists and Socialists for bringing down the Kaiser
- Hated the Treaty of Versailles and the Weimar Politicians who signed it
- Hated democracy and considered it weak.
- Blamed the Jews for undermining Germany.

25-point programme

Scrap Treaty of Versailles

Remove Jews from position of power

Nationalism – put Germany's needs above others

Destroy the Weimar Republic

Have one strong leader

Expand German land 'Lebensraum' – regain land and colonies to feed Germany's population.

Hitler after WWI:

Hitler remained in the Germany army at the end of WW1. He worked in army intelligence and was given the assignment of checking up on political groups, and reporting on extremist views. He was sent undercover to inspect the German Workers Party, DAP.

Hitler created the 25 point programme for the DAP

Hitler became an energetic and popular speaker – membership of the DAP grows rapidly (1100 in June 1920)

August 1920 – DAP changes its name to the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP)

The swastika was adopted as the symbol of the Nazis

Membership continues to grow – over 3000 by the end of 1920.

With the extra money from membership, the NSDAP bought a newspaper (Volkischer Beobachter)

Hitler replaced Anton Drexler and became leader of the NSDAP in 1921

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Impact of the Munich Putsch 1923

Causes	Events	Consequences -	Consequences +
German problems and grievances with the Weimar Republic	Hitler and 600 SA members stormed a government meeting in Munich	Hitler and other leaders put on trial for treason	Hitler given a public trial and audience for his views (free publicity)
Hitler inspired by Benito Mussolini and his march on Rome	Bavarian leaders (von Kahr, von Seisser, von Lossow) were threatened by Hitler into joining his attempt to take over Bavaria	Hitler sentenced to five years in prison and the NSDAP was banned	Nazi ban lifted in 1925
Hyperinflation (Germany government weak and vulnerable)	The Bavarian leaders went back on their agreement with Hitler and alerted the authorities	The plan to take over Germany had failed and it was a short term humiliation	Hitler used his time in prison to write Mein Kampf (my struggle) in prison
The Growth of the NSDAP (50,000 members by 1923)	Hitler and the SA were outnumbered by the state police who opened fire on the Nazis		Hitler realised he had to change his ideas and take control of Germany through democratic and legal means and not by force
French invasion of the Ruhr	Hitler escaped and went into hiding. He was later arrested. 16 Nazis were killed.		Hitler released from prison after nine months

Nazi beliefs after 1924

Nationalism	Destroy Versailles Making Germany great again Lebensraum Master race	Traditional German values	Strong family values with clear roles for men and women Christian morality Traditional art, music and literature
Socialism	Government control of major businesses Strong economy No Jewish control of business Treat workers fairly	Struggle	Struggle makes people and countries stronger Struggle with other nations to create lebensraum Struggle within Germany to strengthen the German race
Totalitarianism	The Nazi party should control all aspects of life End democracy which Hitler said was weak Total loyalty to the Fuhrer	Racial Purity	The Germanic people of northern Europe (Aryans) were superior Other races were inferior Jews were the lowest form of life

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Changes to the Nazi Party during the Lean Years (1924-1928)

Party Organisation	A new party secretary and treasurer ensured the Nazi's were well financed Germany was divided into 35 regions. Each Gau had a Gauleiter (a regional leader) which allowed Hitler better control of the party
Finances	Hitler befriended Germany's wealthiest executives who feared communism. Hitler promised them he would limit the power of the trade unions. By early 1930s, the Nazis were receiving donations from giants of German industry including Krupp and Bosch. The extra income allowed them to expand the SA, form the SS, and increase party propaganda.
Propaganda	Controlled by Josef Goebbels. Aimed to get the Nazi messages across to the people of Germany: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews, communists and Weimar government responsible for defeat in WWI and Versailles • Hitler was 'The answer' to Germany's problems • Nazis were strong and would make Germany strong • Used new technology including radio and films
SA/SS	The SA expanded to 400,000, but Hitler did not trust them. The SS was a smaller group of specially selected soldiers

Result of Nazi reorganisation: By 1929 Nazis were well organised with 100,000 members and Hitler known nationally. However, they had not gained in elections because the economy had recovered under Stresemann so people were better off, Germany had gained credibility internationally and was in the League of Nations, and Paul von Hindenburg, a war hero, became president in 1925 making the Weimar Republic look more solid. At the 1928 May Election the Nazis won only 12 seats with 2.6% of the national vote. Despite these changes, the Nazis were no closer to taking power.

Impact of the Wall Street Crash and Great Depression

Wall Street Crash 1929	The collapse of the New York stock market caused by mass selling of shares in companies in October 1929. In a week, investors lost \$4,000m
Economic Effects	American loans to Germany were recalled causing German businesses to close or reduce operations – led to unemployment. A worldwide economic depression began
Social and Political Effects	Middle classes lost savings, businesses and homes Unemployment rose dramatically Government forced to reduce unemployment benefit which angered the poor Chancellor Brüning raised taxes but this upset the wealthy Chancellor Brüning forced to rule by decree (Article 48) in 1931-32 to pass laws Government became very unpopular leading to Brüning resignation in 1932 and leaving a power vacuum for a new leader to step into

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Date	Unemployment
September 1929	1.3 million
September 1931	4.3 million
September 1932	5.1 million
January 1933	6 million

Nazi support grows 1929-1932

Hitler's appeal	<p>Many Germans turned to the Nazis during the Great Depression, mainly because of Hitler. He was seen as a man who could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a strong leader • Unite the country • Restore order • Scrap Versailles • Get a fair deal for Germany internationally
The SA	<p>By 1930, there were 400,000 Brown shirts. They had four roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be disciplined and ordered, creating sense that the Nazis were the same • Create hope for the future • Disrupt opposing parties, especially the communists • Intimidate voters
Working class support	<p>The working class was the biggest group of voters. The Nazis appealed to them by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling for traditional German values • Promising 'work and bread' • Propaganda
Middle class support	<p>Many became angry with the moderate parties and turned to the Nazis. The Nazis promised them~:</p> <p>Many had lost savings and businesses and they thought Hitler would be a strong leader</p> <p>They feared the communists and hoped the Nazis would protect them from them</p> <p>They valued traditional German values</p>
Farmers	<p>Farmers feared having their land taken by the communists. The Nazis promised to protect them from this</p>
Big business	<p>Feared losing their profits to the communists. The Nazis promised to protect them from this</p>
Young people and women	<p>The young were attracted by Hitler's passionate speeches and his ambition for the future. Women worried that they would have restricted roles in society, but many voted for the Nazis because they felt it would benefit their families</p>
Election 1932	<p>The Nazis relied on support from across society. In the 1932 election they gained 230 seats in the Reichstag and were the largest single party having previously been viewed as an 'insignificant threat' by the Weimar government</p>

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Nazis win power

THE FALL OF BRUNING	Bruning was sacked in April 1932 and replaced by a coalition of right wing groups led by Von Schleicher, an army general.
VON PAPEN	Franz Von Papen was appointed as Chancellor of von Schleicher's new government in May 1932. The Nazis were offered a place in the government as von Schleicher thought he could control Hitler. He described the Nazis as "children who had to be led by the hand." Hitler agreed to the offer, and, for the first time, became part of Germany's government
ELECTIONS 1932	When the Nazis became the largest single party in July 1932, Hitler demanded the sacking of von Papen. Hindenburg refused as he hated Hitler and did not want him to become chancellor. A new election was called for November 1932; von Papen hoped Hitler's support would fall. In the November election, the Nazi vote fell to 196 seats in the Reichstag but they remained the largest party. Von Papen now needed Hitler's support to stay in government, so he resigned
VON SCHLEICHER AS CHANCELLOR	39 big business owners wrote to Hindenburg asking for Hitler's appointment as chancellor but von Schleicher was appointed in December 1932, thinking Hitler's support was falling. He said that "Herr Hitler is no longer a problem; his movement is a thing of the past." Von Schleicher could not gain enough support in parliament. He also thought Von Papen and Hitler were plotting against him. He tried to convince Hindenburg to let him rule through a military dictatorship, Hindenburg refused. This was leaked to the Reichstag who demanded Von Schleicher's resignation.
HITLER BECOMES CHANCELLOR	Von Papen convinced Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as chancellor with von Papen as his deputy. This, he said, would allow Hitler to be controlled. Von Papen said he had "Hitler in his pocket." Hindenburg agreed and appointed Hitler chancellor on 30 January 1933 saying, "it is my unpleasant duty to appoint this fellow as chancellor."