

Paper 2  
Section B  
Germany 1929-1939

## How was Hitler able to become Chancellor in January 1933?

1929 the Great Depression gave Hitler his chance. More people joined the Nazis because The Weimar Government could not sort out the problems. Germany had no strong government.

### The Depression, 1929-33

- In 1929 the Wall Street Crash forced US banks to recall their loans to Germany.
- German industry was hit by a fall in demand and was unable to pay back loans from the USA.
- Millions of workers were made unemployed as factories closed down.
- None of the measures introduced by the government to combat the Depression had any effect, which brought out all the weaknesses of the Weimar Republic.
- Coalition groups were formed as different parties disagreed on how to end the Depression, but it proved impossible to form a coalition government.
- After 1929 a political emergency was declared and Germany was ruled by the emergency powers of the President.
- Extreme parties like the Nazis and the communists won increased support because they promised to do something to end the Depression.
- In 1933 the Weimar government was replaced by a Nazi dictatorship.

### Growth of support for the Nazi Party, 1929-33

#### Effects of the Depression

- The Weimar Republic could not solve the problems of the Depression.
- The Nazis promised to end the Depression and 6 million unemployed.
  
- The Nazis were well organised and used propaganda to put over their message via posters, rallies and meetings. The SA also disrupted opponents' meetings.

### Electoral gains

- 1930 Reichstag election: Nazis won 107 seats.
- July 1932 Reichstag election: Nazis won 107 seats. But Hitler not made Chancellor.
- November 1932 Reichstag election: Nazis won 196 seats and remained the largest party.
- April 1932 Presidential election: Hitler lost to Hindenburg but 13 millions Germans voted for him.

### Hitler becomes Chancellor, January 1933

Despite his dislike of Hitler, the strength of the Nazis in the Reichstag forced President Hindenburg to accept Hitler as Chancellor. Three other Nazis also entered the government. Hindenburg and other politicians like the Vice-Chancellor. Von Papen, still expected that they could control Hitler.



### **Key Dates to Learn**

1919	Hitler joins the <i>German Workers' Party</i>
1920	Hitler becomes leader and renames it the <i>Nazi Party</i>
1921	<i>SA</i> set up
1923	Hitler fails to take power in the <i>Munich Putsch</i>
1924	Hitler imprisoned; write <i>Mein Kampf</i>
1928	<i>Nazi Party</i> wins 12 seats in the Reichstag
1929	Depression hits <i>Germany</i>
1930	<i>Nazis</i> win 107 seats in the Reichstag

1932	<b>April</b>	Hitler wins 13 million votes in election for President
	<b>July</b>	Nazis win 230 seats in the Reichstag
	<b>November</b>	Nazis win 196 seats in the Reichstag
1933	<b>January</b>	Hitler appointed Chancellor

**How was Hitler able to use the World Depression to extend support for the Nazis between 1929-33?**

- Years of stability ended with death of Stresemann & Wall St. Crash
  - 1929 Nazis not a major force, 1932 largest party
  - 1933 Hitler as Chancellor - How?
1. Depression hits Germany → unemployment → 1930 Nazis 107 1932 230.
  2. Strengths of Nazi Party ( )
  3. Political Weaknesses of Weimar) Hitler as Chancellor (see previous sheet)
  4. Consolidation of power Reichstag fire, 1933 Elections, Enabling Law.

**Conclusion**

- Depression gave Hitler his chance.
- But other factors too, combined to extend Nazi support.
- Once in power → destruction of Weimar democracy.

**How did Hitler change Germany from democracy to dictatorship?**

**Nazi Dictatorship August 1934**

**August 1934**

Hitler as Führer and Commander-in-Chief.  
Death of Hindenburg Chancellor and President joined.

**June 1934**

Night of Long Knives Röehm and hundreds of S.A. shot.  
Trade unions banned - Nazi officials run state Government.

<b>March 1933</b>	All other political parties declared illegal. Enabling law - laws for 4 years without Reichstag consent. March elections (288 seats no majority) coalition with Nationalists.
<b>February 1933</b>	Reichstag fire - Communists blamed - emergency measures e.g. arrested.
<b>January 1933</b>	New election called - hope for Nazi majority Media controlled opposition meetings banned. Hitler as Chancellor of Weimar Republic. Weimar Republic Democracy.

### Establishment of a Nazi Dictatorship 1933-34

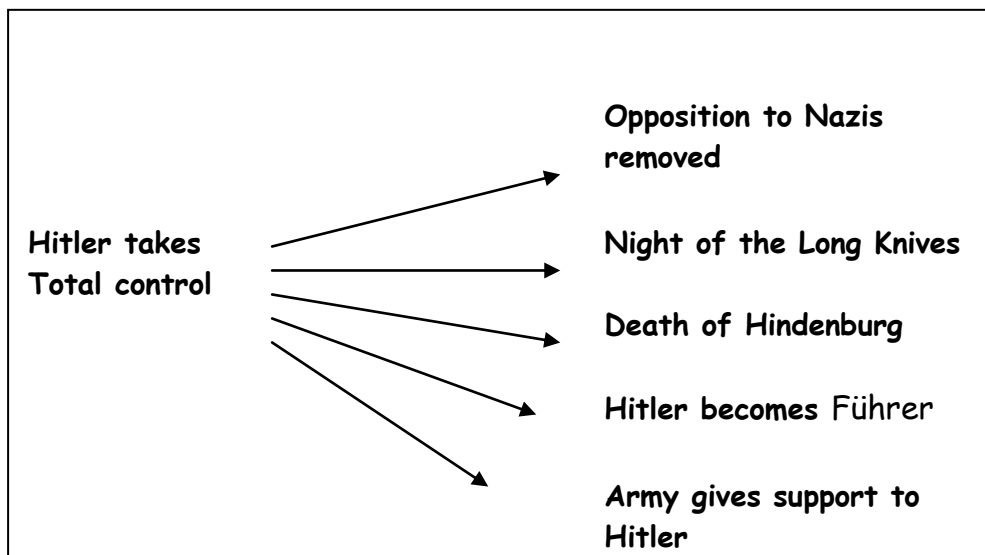
<b>Topic Summary</b>	After Hitler became Chancellor, he set about establishing a dictatorship. This was achieved between January 1933 and August 1934 when he removed all opposition to the Nazi Party. He even destroyed the SA because he thought they were becoming a threat to him within the Party. Nazi ministers and officials were appointed to allow Hitler to control all aspects of government in Germany. Finally, the death of President Hindenburg gave Hitler total control and he became Führer.
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### The Nazis used Dirty Tricks to win in 1933

1. The Nazis won 288 seats but no majority - the Communists still won 81.
2. So Hitler declared the Communist party illegal.
3. This gave him support in parliament to bring in an Enabling Bill which was passed with threats and bargaining in March 1933.
4. This Bill let him govern for four years without parliament and made all other parties illegal. Hitler was almost in full control.

### The Night of the Long Knives 30<sup>th</sup> June 1934

- Hitler felt that the SA, under their leader Ernst Roehm, were becoming a threat to Hitler's control of the Nazi Party.
- The SA wanted more socialist policies than Hitler was prepared to accept. Hitler needed the support of big business and could not afford to lose its backing.
- The SA wanted control of the German army while Hitler wanted and needed the army's support.
- On 30 June Hitler ordered the murder of SA leaders, including Roehm. Other political opponents such as Van Schleicher, the former Chancellor, were killed at the same time.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August President Hindenburg died.
- Hitler declared himself the new President and took the title of Führer.
- German army gave an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler promising to serve him. Democracy now dead!



### Key Dates to Learn

<b>1933</b>	<b>January</b>	Hitler becomes Chancellor
	<b>February</b>	Reichstag Fire
	<b>March</b>	Elections give Hitler control of the Reichstag Enabling Law
	<b>May</b>	Trade unions abolished
	<b>June</b>	All political parties except the Nazis are banned
<b>1934</b>	<b>June</b>	Night of Long Knives eliminates the SA
	<b>August</b>	Death of President Hindenburg Hitler becomes Führer

## Nazi Rule in Germany 1934-39

### Topic Summary

Between 1934 and 1939 Germany was a totalitarian state with the German people under the control of a Nazi dictatorship. The Nazis ruled through control and oppression, and persuasion and propaganda. Control was enforced by the SS and the Gestapo, and there was also control of education and censorship of the media. The Nazis also persecuted those Germans not accepted as true Aryans - especially the Jews. In some ways some Germans did benefit from Nazi rule, for example increased employment. However, this came at the loss of their freedom.

### What were the Main Features of Totalitarian Dictatorship in Nazi Germany?

A totalitarian or police state was created with Hitler and the Nazis in complete control. It was a one-party state.

### WHY DID PEOPLE SUPPORT HITLER?

#### Germany was now under Strong Leaders

1. Germany was reorganised into Gaus (provinces) with a Gauleiter - a loyal Nazi in charge.
2. Above them were the Reichsleiter like Goering and Goebbels, who advised Hitler.
3. At the top was the Führer - Hitler himself - who had absolute control.
4. Every aspect of life was carefully controlled, and only loyal Nazis could be successful.

## Law and Order

- The SS, under the control of Himmler, had unlimited powers, including powers of arrest.
- The Death Head Units of the SS ran the concentration camps where people could be sent without trial.
- The Gestapo (secret police) also had unlimited powers. Its officers could arrest people simply for criticising the Nazis.
- The Gestapo encourage people to report on any 'anti-Nazi' activity by their neighbours, fellow workers, friends, even their own family.
- Judges were expected to support the ideas of the Nazi Party, rather than those of justice. 'Unreliable' judges were removed.

## The Nazis controlled all Information

### **Censorship and propaganda**

- Josef Goebbels was the Minister of Propaganda and Enlightenment. He controlled what Germans read and heard.
- Newspapers, films, books, art and music were all controlled and censored so that they supported Nazi ideas. As a result, many artists and writers left Germany.
- Radio broadcasts were controlled. Cheap radios were provided so that all Germans could hear Hitler's speeches at home, in factories, shops and at school.
- Groups such as the Jews were always shown in a bad light.
- Mass rallies were held and used as propaganda events. The most famous was the Nuremberg rally, held every August.
- Hitler was portrayed as a great, almost god-like figure.
- All teachers had to belong the National Socialist Teachers Union.
- All schools taught Germans were a superior race to them.
- Textbooks all rewritten, including race studies.

### **Persecution of the Jews**

Once in power, Hitler put his anti-Semitic (anti-Jewish) ideas, outlined in *Mein Kampf*, into operation:

- In 1933 Jewish shops and businesses were boycotted.
- In 1934 any Jews who were employed as civil servants, teachers or in other government jobs were dismissed.
- Jews were banned from parks, public buildings and public transport.



- The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 took away Jews' rights as German citizens. Marriage between Jews and non-Jews was also banned.
- Many Jews now began to leave Germany.
- In November 1938 Jewish shops and synagogues were destroyed in *Kristallnacht* (the night of broken glass). Thousands of Jews were arrested and during the next few weeks over 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps.
- After 1939 the 'Final Solution' the extermination of Jewish people, began. This resulted in 6 million Jews being killed.

### **Persecution of other groups & religions**

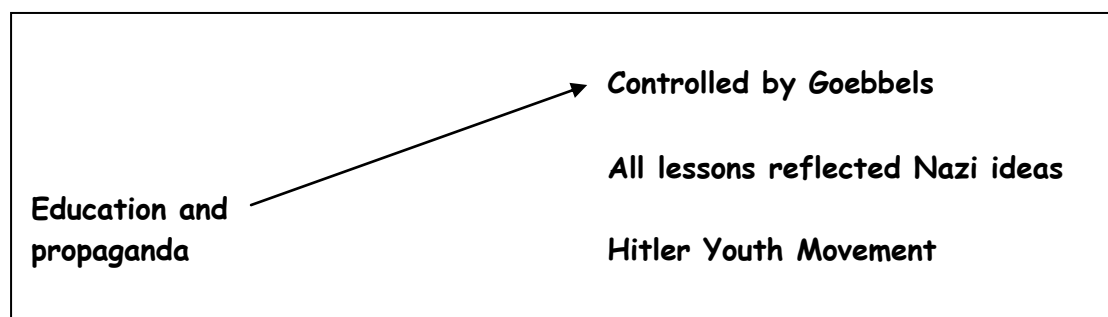
- Anyone not considered to be an 'Aryan' suffered under the Nazis. This included gypsies and black people, who were considered inferior.
- People not 'socially useful' like tramps and mentally and physically disabled people, were also put into concentration camps.
- Churches also had to accept Nazi rule. Priests and ministers who did not, such as Martin Niemöller, were put into concentration camps.
- A Reich church, dominated by Nazis, was also set up.

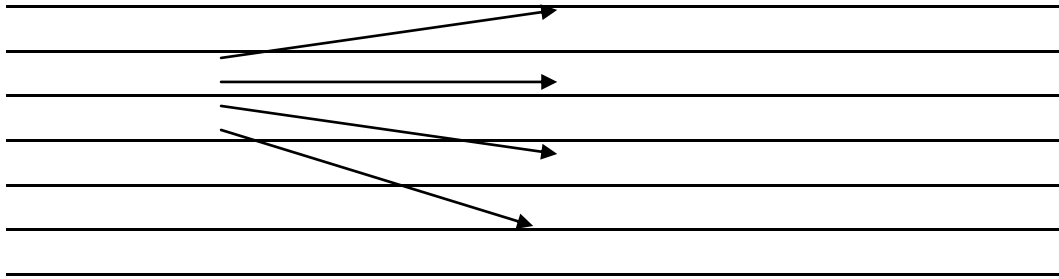
### **Education and young people**

- The Nazis completely controlled education in order to brainwash children into following Nazi ideas.
- All teachers had to be members of the Nazi Party. All lessons had to reflect Nazi ideas.
- Every child was taught to be fit and ready to fight for Germany. Physical education was a priority.
- Girls were taught how to be good wives and mothers.
- The Hitler Youth was set up to control how young people spent their leisure time. It indoctrinated them with Nazi ideas and stressed service to the Reich in the army or elsewhere.

### **Women**

- Women were encouraged to have children. Schemes were introduced to 'reward' women for having children.
- Women were also encouraged to give up their jobs and stay at home to look after their husbands and children.





### There was no real opposition to the Nazis

It's hard to understand why so few people protested - there were four main reasons:

1. Everybody was scared of the SS and the Gestapo.
2. People were better off after years of hardship, and chose to ignore what they didn't like.
3. Goebbels' propaganda was so effective that people didn't get the whole story about what was really going on - but believed the Nazi government knew best.
4. Opponents like the Communists or even opponents within the Nazi party had been eliminated.

A few brave men like the churchman MARTIN NIEMULLER did speak against the Nazis, but he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. Many churchmen were arrested when it seemed like the Churches might start to protest against the Nazis. Generally they didn't.

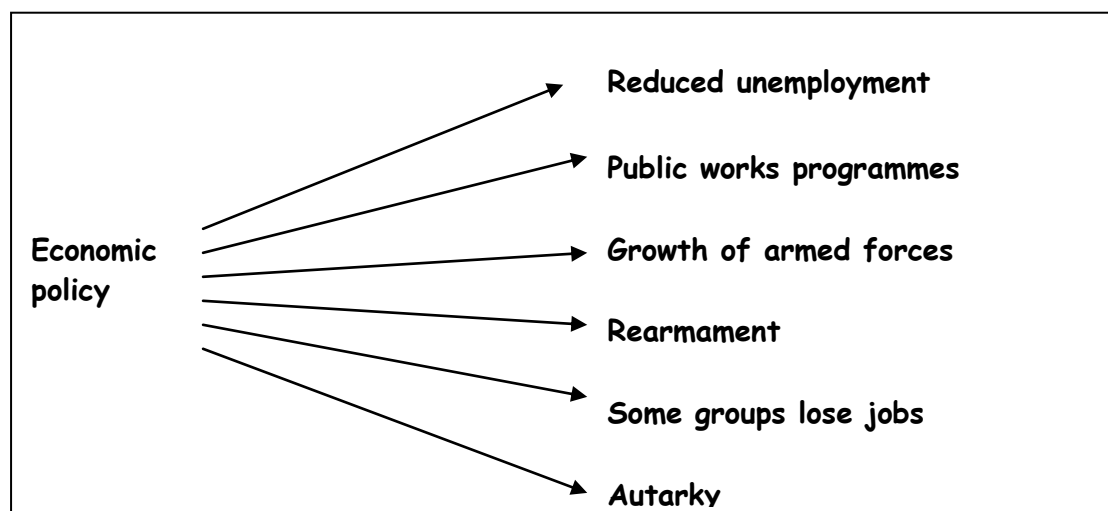
## To What extent did the German people benefit from Nazi rule in the 1930's?

### Economic policy

In 1933 there were 6 million unemployed in Germany. By 1938 fewer than half a million were without work. Hitler solved the problem of unemployment in a number of ways:

- Public works programmes such as building roads (autobahns), houses and public buildings were established.
- In 1935 rearmament began and men were conscripted into the armed forces.
- Rearmament created jobs in industries that supplied the armed forces.
- Aryan men replace people such as Jews and women who were forced out of work and who were not then recorded as being unemployed. Jobs were also created by the growing numbers of people being sent to concentration camps.

Hitler also planned to make Germany self-sufficient in key products such as coal, oil and iron. This policy is called *Autarky*. New, synthetic products such as textiles and petrol were also developed. Although some progress was made, these areas of economic policy were not successful.

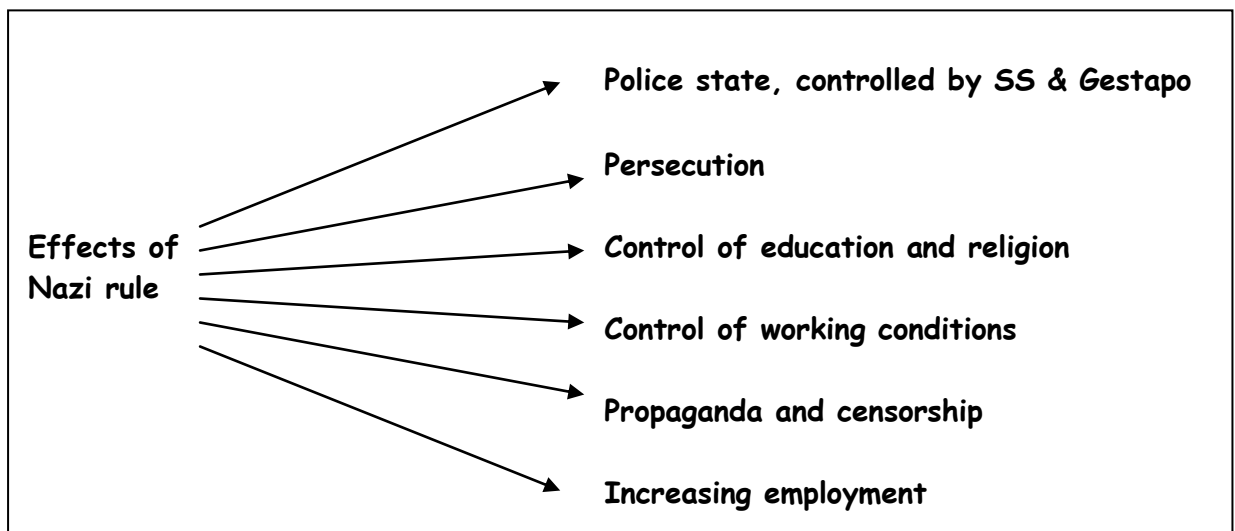


## GERMAN GROWTH UNDER THE NAZIS

There are more reasons why so many people supported Hitler, even though there were aspects of Nazi life they didn't like.

### People were Encourage to Work by Rewards

1. All men between 18 and 25 could be recruited into the National Labour Service and given jobs.
2. Instead of Trade Unions, workers joined the Labour Front, where they wouldn't be allowed to go on strike, but had higher wages than before.
3. The Nazis introduced the 'Strength through Joy' idea - good workers were awarded prizes, like holidays.
4. Output increased in Germany, and unemployment was almost ended completely.
5. The Nazis introduced the Volkswagen (the people's car) as an ambition for people to aim for.



### Eight Main Reasons for Hitler's Popularity

1. He gave the Germans jobs after the struggles and unemployment of the 1920's.
2. The people were taught the Nazi way from an early age.
3. He made them proud internationally - Germans had felt humiliated for a long time.
4. People felt much better off as industry expanded.
5. Massive rallies every year gave the impression of a strong, prosperous nation.

6. The army supported his aim to make *Germany* strong again.
7. Businesses liked the prosperity and the way Hitler attacked the Communists.
8. People were frightened to protest against Nazi methods - they knew they'd be arrested.