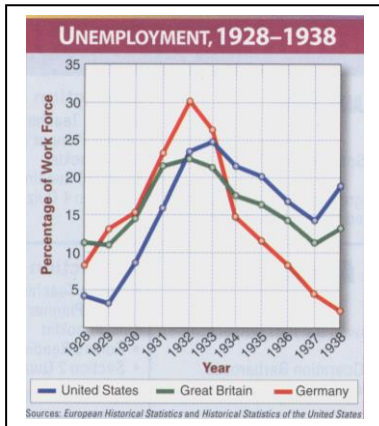
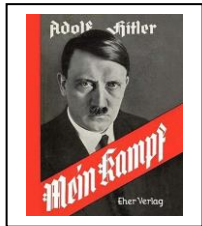


Aim #5: How was Hitler able to come to power & How did he rule Germany?



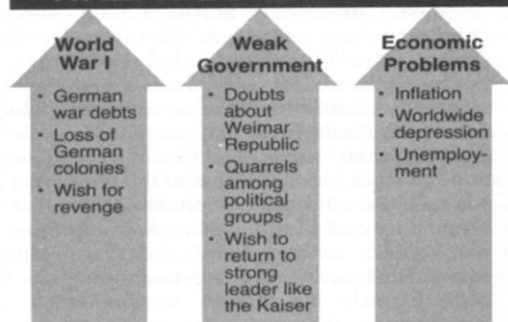
Mini Lecture

- After WWI, German leaders set up a democratic government known as the **Weimar Republic**. The new republic faced severe problems.
- Under the Treaty of Versailles, the new government not only had to pay billions in reparations, it was also not allowed to have an army. The numbers of unemployed workers swelled due to a weak economy. Their actions led to hyperinflation & skyrocketing prices. Communism became appealing.
- Such an environment fostered anger and alienation. Many Germans perceived the Weimar Republic as utterly incapable of solving the country's problems, so they looked to right-wing political parties that promised strong action.
- Many Germans believed that energetic, charismatic leader **Adolf Hitler** would solve Germany's problems. As head of the **Nationalist Socialist Workers' Party**, or the **Nazis**, Hitler promised to end reparations, create jobs, and rearm Germany (his plans were outlined in *Mein Kampf*) He brilliantly exploited people's fears.
- The **Great Depression** further pushed the German people into hopelessness and despair, and in need of a strong, aggressive leader/government to bring stability.
- The Nazi Party came to power legally after the party did well in the 1932 parliamentary elections. In early 1933, the aging and ailing president of Germany, **Paul von Hindenburg**, appointed Hitler as **Chancellor**. Hindenburg died in 1934, allowing Hitler to declare himself president.
- Through intimidation and manipulation, the Nazi Party (along with the **Brown Shirts** & the **Gestapo**) instilled fear & panic in the German people, making them believe that they were in a state of emergency. For example, the Nazis secretly set **fire to the Reichstag** (parliament building), and blamed it on Communists.
- Hitler used this as a pretext to crack down on these groups who opposed him & ruled as a dictator. Using the need for domestic security as justification, Hitler later outlawed all other political parties, certain rights, and all forms of resistance to his rule.
- To appeal to nationalism and recall Germany's glorious past, Hitler called his government the **Third Reich** (Empire).
- Like the emperors of earlier times, Hitler expected his subjects to follow his direction without question. Various factors enabled Hitler to persuade many to accept his leadership:
 - The Economy: Hitler's regime reduced unemployment through public works & rearmament programs (defying the Treaty of Versailles). These provided jobs & made powerful German industrialists wealthy- gaining their support.
 - **Propaganda**: A powerful orator, Hitler held audiences at huge rallies spellbound as he ranted against the enemies of Germany- primarily Jews & Communists whom he blamed for the country's ills. The Nazis took complete control of all forms of media through which they constantly trumpeted their views. Germans listened to it because it fit their bias about why Germany had lost WWI.
 - National Pride: The Nazi's propaganda was designed to wipe away the shame Germans felt after WWI. It told Germans they were superior to all other peoples- a "**master race**." If this was so, it only made sense that all other races existed to serve them and allow for German expansion to get more "living space"
 - Youth and Education: The Nazis strictly controlled the curriculum of all schools. Young people were compelled to join groups such as the **Hitler Youth**, which further indoctrinated them in Nazi ideology. Parents who objected were threatened with the loss of their children.
- Hitler promoted **scientific racism**- a pseudo, scientific movement that claimed that certain races were genetically superior to others. He also advanced an extreme form of Anti-Semitism, blaming Jews for Germany's problems. Nazi propaganda emphasized the need for a "pure" German nation of "**Aryans**", purged of "outsiders"- Jews, Slavs, Communists, Gypsies, gays- must be removed from German society.
- To this end, the **Nuremberg Laws of 1935** stripped Jews of their German citizenship & finalized their social & professional isolation. Along with propaganda, these laws created an atmosphere of hostility, hatred, & distrust of Jews in Germany.
- In November 1938, **Kristallnacht**, the "**Night of Broken Glass**", saw supposedly spontaneous anti-Jewish riots (entirely orchestrated by the Nazis)- killing 90 Jews, and destroying synagogues & thousands of Jewish businesses. 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps. This event turned out to be only the beginning of Hitler's deadly campaign against Jews.

Review Questions:

1. What problems did the Weimar Republic face after WWI?
2. Explain how Hitler rose to power?
3. How did Hitler rule Germany?

NAZI RISE TO POWER



Source: Guide to the Essentials of World History, Prentice Hall (adapted)

How did the end of World War I impact Germany?

Directions: Read the excerpt. Respond to the questions.

1919-1929: The Weimar Republic

The Birth of the Weimar Republic

In November of 1918, Germany surrendered in World War I. In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed and deprived Germany of various territories, demilitarized the country, and forced Germany to pay heavy reparations. With the ending of World War I and Germany's defeat, the imperial government came to an end and German leaders created a democratic government known as the Weimar Republic. In this new democratic government, there was a **chancellor** or prime minister. Under this new democratic government, women were allowed to vote, there was a bill of rights and political parties were able to form.

Problems in the Weimar Republic

Despite the hopes of a new democracy, Germany suffered from a range of early political and economic problems.

Political Problems

Politically, the Weimar Republic had many small political parties so it was nearly impossible to form a coalition. The Weimar Republic was criticized by both conservatives and leftists. Conservatives thought the Weimar Republic was too weak. Leftists and communists demanded the changes they'd heard Lenin brought to Russia. In addition to the critiques of the Weimar Republic, many Germans were still angered by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Having to pay such large reparations negatively impacted the economy. Not only did the Treaty of Versailles impact the economy, it also impacted German nationalism and the sense of pride they had for their country. Germans of all classes began to believe the Weimar Republic was weak and not doing enough to protect German pride.

Economic Problems

The political problems were compounded by economic problems. In 1922 and 1923, Germany experienced rampant inflation. Inflation is the rise in prices and the fall in the value of money. Many Germans who lived on fixed government incomes found their money to be worthless. In addition to inflation, Germany began to fall behind on reparation payments as mandated in the Treaty of Versailles. When the Weimar Republic was unable to make payments, France occupied the Ruhr Valley. The German workers in Ruhr Valley refused to work, but were still paid by the government with newly printed money. The newly printed money only created more inflation and soon the German currency (*marks*) were worthless.

1. What did the Treaty of Versailles require Germany to do?
2. What form of government emerged after Germany's defeat in World War I?
3. In this new government, what three new freedoms were Germans granted?
4. Identify three *political* problems in the Weimar Republic.
5. Identify two (2) *economic* problems in the Weimar Republic.
6. Why did the scapegoating of Jewish people happen during these times of political and economic trouble in Germany?
7. Why did Germans begin to look to extremist leaders during these times of political and economic trouble?
8. How was Germany able to experience a period of prosperity between 1924 and 1929?

How did Hitler gain, consolidate and maintain power in Germany before the Great Depression?

1919-1929: The Rise of Adolf Hitler

Hitler's rise to power cannot be attributed to one event. There were **multiple causes** for Hitler's rise to power including events happening throughout the world and events happening within Germany. Hitler was able to **exploit** these events and in 1933 he **legitimately** gained power to become chancellor through the support of conservative politicians.

Hitler's Early Life

In 1919, Hitler joined a the German Workers Party, a right-wing extreme nationalist party in Munich. This party focused on creating a **scapegoat** for the outbreak of the war and Germany's defeat. Hitler unfairly blamed, or scapegoated the Jews for the problems Germany was experiencing following World War I. Communists and politicians across the party spectrum were also blamed. He quickly moved up the ranks in this organization and grew into an effective speaker and delivered speeches in front of large crowds in Munich. His speeches spoke against the Treaty of Versailles, Marxists and Jewish people. His speeches brought large crowds because of the economic crisis and the continued anger over the World War I defeat and the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. In July 1921, Hitler was introduced as Führer and Hitler changed the name of the party to the National Socialist German Workers Party, or Nazi party for short.

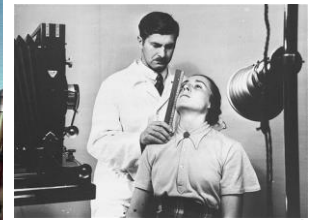
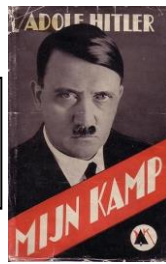
1. What type of political group did Hitler join when the war ended? Why?
2. Hitler began delivering speeches with his political organization. What was the topic of his speeches? Why did this draw in crowds?

The Beer Hall Putsch and Hitler's Incarceration

By 1923, the Nazi party had 55,000 members and was stronger than ever. Still angered by the economic and political problems of inflation and poor leadership, Hitler decided to take matters into his own hands. From November 8 to November 9, 1923, Hitler and his followers staged the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich, a failed takeover of the government in Bavaria, a state in southern Germany. The Nazi party was banned, and Hitler was prevented from speaking in public until 1927 because his speeches were considered too inflammatory and agitating. In April 1924, he was sentenced to 5 years in jail for treason. While the takeover was unsuccessful, the attempt brought Hitler and the Nazis national attention.

3. What was the Beer Hall Putsch? Why did Hitler do this?
4. What was the impact of the Beer Hall Putsch?
5. Why was Hitler banned from public speeches until 1927?

While incarcerated, Hitler wrote a **manifesto** [a public declaration of policy and ideas] entitled *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"). This text outlined the ideas that inspired his millions of followers. The manifesto illustrates his strong and extreme German nationalism, his violent **anti-Semitism** [hostility to or prejudice against Jews] and his anticommunism.



6. What did Hitler write during his incarceration?

Some of the ideas discussed in *Mein Kampf* include:

Anti-Semitism-Hitler blamed Germany's problems on the parliament of the Weimar Republic, the Jews, and Social Democrats, as well as Marxists. He believed that all of these people were all working for Jewish interests. He wrote about the Jews as corrupters of the nation that should be subjected to poison gas.

Racial Purity- Hitler believed that racial purity was an absolute necessity for a renewed Germany. Hitler divided humans into categories. At the top, is the Germanic man with his fair skin, blond hair and blue eyes. Hitler refers to this type of person as an Aryan. Hitler believed that Aryans were the supreme form of humans, or **master race** and that everyone else was inferior.

"Undesirables"- Hitler stated that the destruction of the weak and sick is far more humane than their protection. Hitler believed in destroying "the weak" in order to provide the proper space and purity for the "strong".

7. According to *Mein Kampf*, what were Hitler's views on Jewish people?
8. According to *Mein Kampf*, what were Hitler's views on "racial purity"?
9. According to *Mein Kampf*, what were Hitler's views on "undesirables"?
10. How did Hitler imagine the future of Germany?

At the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Genetics, and Eugenics, a racial hygienist measures a woman's features in an attempt to determine her racial ancestry. Berlin, Germany, date uncertain.
— National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md.

Hitler only served nine months of his five year sentence. During his incarceration, he decided that the success of the Nazis lie not in a violent overthrow of the Weimar Republic, but by winning power through constitutional means. Once he legally gained power, he could transform Germany into a nation that aligned with his doctrine. Upon his release, Hitler reorganized the Nazi party into a proper political organization and sought to compete for votes with other political parties. By 1929, the Nazi party had become an official national political party.

11. How did Hitler's incarceration impact his decision about how he would gain power in Germany?

How did the Great Depression impact the rise of totalitarian dictators?

1930: The Great Depression

One major cause of the global Great Depression was the American Wall Street Crash of October 1929. America had given the Weimar Republic huge loans in 1924 to help with reparation payments. However, now America needed those loans back to assist its troubled economy. Because Germany lost its loans from America, it was unable to make reparation payments. Germany's failure to make reparation payments meant that France and Britain were unable to make their loan payments. Throughout the world, trade began to slow down and production decreased. The Wall Street Crash had a ripple effect throughout the world that resulted in high unemployment throughout Europe. Unemployment forced many Europeans, especially in Germany, to rely on soup kitchens and other government support.

European governments seemed unable to handle the crisis. The traditional approaches to handling economic crises seemed to only cause more problems. With the current governments unable to ease the pain and suffering of unemployment and inflation, Europeans began to be drawn to **totalitarian** leaders who made promises about economic recovery. **Totalitarianism** is a political system in which all authority is in the hands of the state. In a totalitarian society, all control of public and private life are government run.

1. How did the Great Depression impact European nations?
2. How did the Great Depression lead to the rise of totalitarian leaders?

How did Hitler gain, consolidate and maintain power in Germany after the Great Depression?

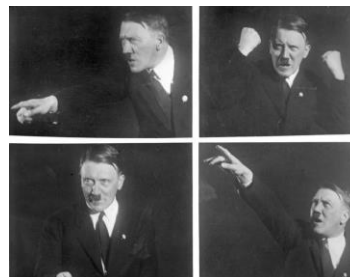
1930-1933: The Rise of the Nazi Party and Hitler Becomes Chancellor of Germany



Hitler Salutes Nazis in Weimar, 1930

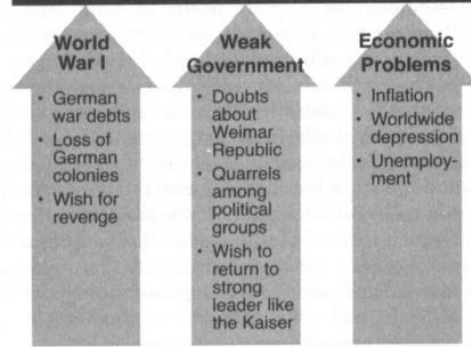


Hitler in a NSDAP meeting, 1930



Hitler poses for the camera, 1930

NAZI RISE TO POWER



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

In the early 1930s, the mood in Germany was depressing and hopeless. Unemployment rose from 4 million to 6 million in 1931 and inflation continued. The worldwide economic depression hit many countries hard, however, Germany was not only suffering from economic problem, the country was also suffering from the loss of confidence due to being defeated in World War I. The Germans lacked confidence in democracy and the Weimar Republic which they came to believe was too weak to pull the country out of these troubles. The economic problems and the German loss of faith in the Weimar Republic's democracy provided the perfect opportunity for Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party to gain power. Hitler was an excellent speaker and often gave speeches that targeted those Germans who were desperate for change such as the unemployed, young people, and members of the lower middle class. In his speeches, he promised a better life..

1. According to the graphic and the text above, what events allowed Hitler and the Nazi party to rise to power?

Propaganda is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause. It is a specific type of message aimed at trying to influence people's opinions or behaviors actively.

Context: Below is an excerpt from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

The task of propaganda is to attract followers; the task of organization to win members. A follower of a movement is one who declares himself in agreement with its aims; a member is one who fights for it. [...] Propaganda tries to force a **doctrine** [a set of beliefs taught by a religious or political organization] upon an entire people [...] Propaganda works on the community in the sense of an idea and it makes it ripe for the time of the victory of this idea [...] The first task of propaganda is the winning of people for the future organization [...] The second task of propaganda is the destruction of the existing condition and the permeation of this condition with the new doctrine, while the second task of the organization must be the fight for power, so that by it it will achieve the final success of the doctrine.

2. According to Hitler, what is the purpose or "task" of propaganda?



Hitler speaks of presidential election – April 4, 1932



Supporters of Hitler's National Socialist Party campaigning in front of a polling place in Berlin

1932 Presidential Campaign Posters

Directions: Examine the 1932 campaign posters below and for each answer the following questions: 1. Who is he targeting? 2. Why is he targeting them? 3. What is the message? 4. What does he want people viewing this poster to do?



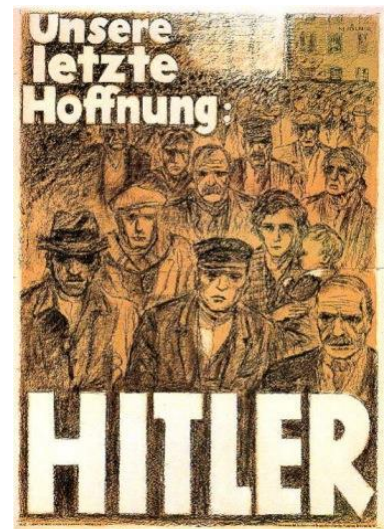
A. 1932 campaign poster reads: "We will take the fate of the nation into our hands! Hitler will be Reich President!"



B. 1932 campaign poster reads: "Workers of the Mind, of the Fist, Vote for the Front Soldier / HITLER!"



C. 1932 campaign poster reads: "We Women Are Voting Slate 2 National Socialists"



D. 1932 campaign poster reads: "Our Last Hope—Hitler"

In the July 1932 elections, the Nazis won 33 percent of the votes, more than any other party. In the Reichstag (German parliament) elections of November 1932, the Nazis lost almost two million votes from the previous elections of July. Because Hitler did not think that they would gain a majority in democratic elections, he agreed to a coalition with conservatives. After months of negotiations, the president of Germany, Paul von Hindenburg, decided to appoint Hitler as the chancellor of Germany.

3. How did Hitler become the chancellor of Germany?
4. Why is it significant that Hitler gained power this way?

1933-1945: The Nazi Party Controls Germany

As soon as Hitler became chancellor on January 30, 1933, he immediately ended democracy and created a totalitarian state. He sought to stamp out opposition and worked tirelessly to establish total control of Germany. In the March 1933 federal elections, the Nazi party did not obtain the absolute majority of votes for control of the parliament. To gain absolute power, Hitler passed the **Enabling Act** which made Hitler dictator of Germany. This act left the Reichstag or parliament powerless. In a few short months, the Nazis banned all other parties and dissolved the parliament. The parliament was replaced by a parliament with only Nazi party representatives.



Paul von Hindenburg and Adolf Hitler on the Day of Potsdam, 21 March 1933

By mid-1933, Germany had become a **totalitarian** state. Nazi Germany, or the Third Reich, refers to Germany in the years of 1933 to 1945, when it was governed by the dictatorship of the Nazi Party, with Adolf Hitler as chancellor and, from 1934, as head of state called the Führer (Leader). Hitler and the Nazi party sought to create a “total state” where his German Aryan racial state would dominate the world. **The new government installed a totalitarian dictatorship through a series of strategies to gain, consolidate and maintain power over Germany.**

Directions: After examining documents on Nazi totalitarian control below, fill in the chart below. For each method of control listed, identify if it helped the Hitler and the Nazis gain, consolidate, and/or maintain power in Germany. Then, explain why you think so.

Method of Control	Gain, Consolidate, and/or Maintain Power? Circle all that apply.	Explanation Explain why the method of control described made it possible for Hitler and the Nazis to gain, consolidate, and/or maintain power in Germany.
Hitler's Youth and Indoctrination of Youth	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Mass Demonstrations, Rallies and Spectacles	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
SS or Secret Police	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Secret Police and Great Purge	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Rearmament & New Alliances	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	

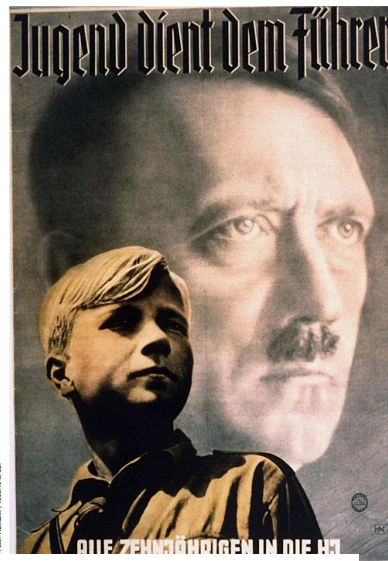
Hitler Youth and Indoctrination



Hitler Youth performing the Nazi salute at a rally in Berlin, 1933



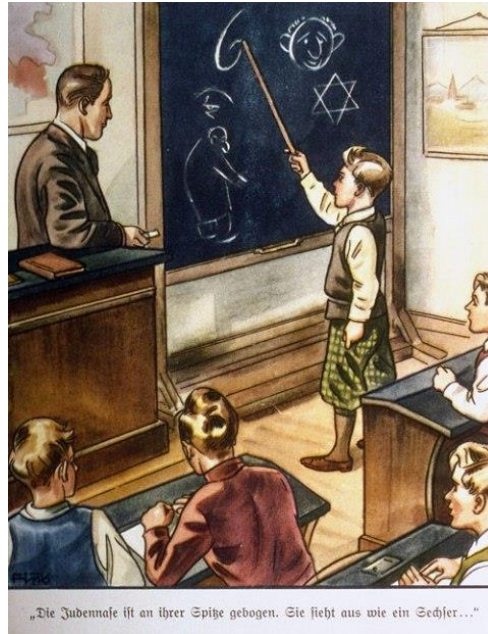
Hitler Youth at rifle practice, circa 1943



Poster: "Youth Serves the Leader: All 10-Year-Olds into the [Hitler Youth]"



A Hitler Youth poses for a photograph in the Rhineland city of Bruehl, 1934. In 1939, membership in Nazi youth groups became mandatory for all boys and girls between the ages of ten and eighteen.



Page from *The Poisonous Mushroom*. This photograph shows a page from one of several anti-semitic children's books published by Julius Streicher's *Der Stürmer*-Verlag. The text reads, "The Jewish nose is crooked at its tip. It looks like the number 6."

1. 1. What was the purpose of Hitler's Youth?
2. 2. How did Hitler's Youth indoctrinate the youth?
3. 3. Why was it important for Hitler to target youth?
4. 4. Some forms of indoctrinating young people included textbooks and children's books. Why would the Nazi party choose textbooks and children's books to spread Nazi beliefs?

Mass Demonstrations, Rallies and Spectacles

The Nuremberg Rally was the annual rally of the Nazi Party in Germany held from 1933 to 1938. These large Nazi propaganda events were held at the Nazi party rally grounds in Nuremberg. These rallies were intended to symbolize the solidarity between the German people, reinforce party enthusiasm and to showcase the power of Nazi party to the rest of Germany and the world. Often, they used these rallies to showcase their growing number of participants. The rallies included speeches by the Führer (Hitler) that were often the occasion for the announcement of new Nazi laws such as in 1935 when the Nuremberg laws were announced. There were great displays of Nazi symbolism such as flags, banners, goose-step marches, human swastika formations, and fireworks displays.

Watch 03:00-07:00 and 00:34-00:38 of *Triumph of the Will* *Triumph of the Will* is a 1935 German propaganda by Leni Riefenstahl. It tells the story of the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg attended by more than 700,000 Nazi supporters. The film includes excerpts from speeches given by Nazi leaders with rally footage. Hitler commissioned the film to be made.



Nazi rally, 1937



Crowds cheering Adolf Hitler's campaign to unite Austria and



Reich Party Congress, Nuremberg, Germany, 1938.



Reich Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels speaking at the Lustgarten in Berlin, 1938.



Volkswagen Works cornerstone

Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht

How were Jewish people treated in Nazi Germany?

In 1933, persecution of the Jews became active Nazi policy, but at first laws were not as rigorously obeyed and were not as devastating as in later years.

On April 1, 1933, Jewish doctors, shops, lawyers and stores were boycotted. Only six days later, the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service was passed, banning Jews from being employed in government. From then on, Jews were forced to work at more menial positions.

In 1935 and 1936, persecution of the Jews increased. In May 1935, Jews were forbidden to join the Wehrmacht (Armed Forces), and that year, anti-Jewish propaganda appeared in Nazi German shops and restaurants.

The Nuremberg Racial Purity Laws were passed around the time of the great Nazi rallies at Nuremberg. On September 15, 1935, the "Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour" was passed, preventing marriage between any Jew and non-Jew. At the same time, the Reich Citizenship Law was passed and was reinforced in November by a decree stating that all Jews, even quarter- and half-Jews, were no longer citizens (Reichsbürger) of their own country (their official status became Reichsangehöriger, "subject of the state"). This meant that they had no basic civil rights, such as the right to vote. (Keep in mind that at this time the right to vote for the non-Jewish Germans only meant the obligation to vote for the Nazi party.) This removal of basic citizens' rights preceded harsher laws to be passed in the future against Jews.



1935 chart shows racial classifications under the Nuremberg Laws: German, Mischlinge, and Jew.

Chart to describe Nuremberg Laws, 1935. The "Nuremberg Laws" established a pseudo-scientific basis for racial identification. Only people with four German grandparents (four white circles in top row left) were of "German blood". A Jew was defined as someone who descended from three or four Jewish grandparents (black circles in top row right). In the middle stood people of "mixed blood" of the "first or second degree."

1. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg laws?
2. What impact did the Nuremberg laws have on Jewish people in Germany?



The Nazis coordinated an attack on Jewish people and their property in Germany and German-controlled lands as a part of Hitler's anti-Semitic policy. On November 7, 1938, Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old German Jew enraged by his family's expulsion from Germany, walked into the German Embassy in Paris and fired five shots at a junior diplomat, Ernst vom Rath. Two days later, the diplomat died and Germany was in the grip of skillfully orchestrated anti-Jewish violence.

Kristallnacht was a **pogrom** [a mob action targeting any specific ethnic or religious group] in Nazi Germany on November 9–10, 1938. On a single night, 91 Jews were murdered, and 25,000–30,000 were arrested and deported to **concentration camps**. In the early hours of November 10, an orgy of coordinated destruction broke out in cities, towns and villages throughout the Third Reich. The consequences of this violence were disastrous for the Jews living under the Third Reich. In a single night, Kristallnacht saw the destruction of more than 1,000 Synagogues, and the ransacking of tens of thousands of Jewish businesses and homes. It marked the beginning of the systematic eradication of a people in Germany who could trace their ancestry to Roman times, and served as a prelude to the Holocaust that was to follow.



Polish Jews expelled from Germany in late October 1938



Kristallnacht, shop damage

3. What was Kristallnacht? What impact did Kristallnacht have on Jewish people in Germany?

The SS or Secret Police

An important tool of Nazi terror and control was the Protective Squad (*Schutzstaffel*), or SS. The SS began as a special guard for Hitler and other important Nazi party leaders. In 1934, the SS became the private army of the Nazi party. The secret police used cruel methods throughout Germany to identify, arrest and murder political opponents. They sought to eliminate all opposition. They would sometimes go door to door looking for Hitler's enemies or anyone who'd ever spoken against Hitler. Camps were set up all over Germany in abandoned warehouses where political opponents were held and persecuted.



Source: Eric Godal, January 10, 1943 (adapted)

1. What was the SS and Gestapo?
2. What techniques did the SS and Gestapo use to maintain control in Germany?
3. Who were the SS and Gestapo protecting? Who were the SS and Gestapo targeting?

Propaganda

Nazi propagandists drew upon the successful techniques and strategies used by the Allies, Socialists, Communists, and Italian Fascists to advance their political campaigns, win public support, and to wage war. Once in power, the Nazis eliminated the "marketplace of ideas" through terror and media manipulation and mobilized propaganda as a weapon to unite the German people around a "leader" and to facilitate aggression, mass murder, and genocide.

The Nazis believed in propaganda as a vital tool in achieving their goals. Adolf Hitler, Germany's Führer, was impressed by the power of Allied propaganda during World War I and believed that it had been a primary cause of the collapse of morale and revolts in the German home front and Navy in 1918.

Along with posters, the Nazis produced a number of films and books to spread their beliefs. Most propaganda in Germany was produced by the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. Joseph Goebbels was placed in charge of this ministry shortly after Hitler took power in 1933. All journalists, writers, and artists were required to register with one of the Ministry's subordinate chambers for the press, fine arts, music, theater, film, literature, or radio. Hitler met frequently with Goebbels to discuss the news. Goebbels would then meet with senior Ministry officials and pass down the official Party line on world events. Broadcasters and journalists required prior approval before their works were disseminated.



German children read an anti-Jewish propaganda book titled DER GIFTPILZ ("The Poisonous Mushroom"). The girl on the left holds a companion volume, the translated title of which is "Trust No Fox." Germany, ca. 1938.



Illustration from a German anti-semitic children's book titled "Trust No Fox in the Green Meadow and No Jew on his Oath". The headlines depicted in the image say "Jews are our misfortune" and "How the Jew cheats." Germany, 1936.



Nazi propaganda photo depicts friendship between an "Aryan" and a black woman. The caption states: "The result! A loss of racial pride." Germany, prewar.



Poster for *The Eternal Jew* (1940), an anti-semitic German Nazi propaganda film



'The seed of peace, not dragon's teeth' cartoon of Hitler, from the magazine *Kladderadatsch*, 22 March 1936



'One People, One Nation, One Leader!' poster of Hitler, 1938

1. What forms of media did Hitler and the Nazi party use to propagandize?
2. What was the purpose of propaganda in Nazi Germany?
3. Who benefited from Nazi propaganda? Who was hurt by Nazi propaganda? Explain.
4. Why were broadcasters and journalists required to receive prior approval before their works were disseminated?

Rearmament and New Alliances

In March 1935, Hitler repudiated [rejected] the Treaty of Versailles by reintroducing conscription [mandatory enlistment into the military] in Germany. He set about building a massive military machine, including a new navy (the Kriegsmarine) and an air force (the Luftwaffe). The enlistment of vast numbers of men and women in the new military seemed to solve unemployment problems but seriously distorted the economy. For the first time in a generation, Germany's armed forces were as strong as those of her neighbor, France.

In March 1936, Hitler again violated the Treaty of Versailles by reoccupying the demilitarized zone in the Rhineland. When Britain and France did nothing, he grew bolder. In fact, Hitler claimed that if one of those countries actually tried to stop him, he would have been defeated easily and the outbreak of war in Europe would probably have been prevented. In July 1936, the Spanish Civil War began when the military, led by General Francisco Franco, rebelled against the elected Popular Front government of Spain. Hitler sent troops to support Franco, and Spain served as a testing ground for Germany's new armed forces and their methods, including the bombing of undefended towns such as Guernica, which was destroyed by the Luftwaffe in April 1937 and served as the inspiration for Pablo Picasso's famous eponymous painting.

An axis was declared between Germany and Italy by Galeazzo Ciano, foreign minister of Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, on October 25, 1936. This alliance was later expanded to include Japan, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. They were collectively known as the **Axis Powers**.

1. Why did Hitler choose to rearm in 1935?
2. How did rearmament impact Germany's power in comparison to other European nations?
3. What new alliances did Hitler form? Why?



The Heinkel He 111, one of the technologically advanced aircraft that were designed and produced illegally in the 1930s as part of the clandestine German rearmament