



Key people

Hindenburg
1847–1934



German military officer, statesman, served as the elected President of Germany from 1925 until his death in 1934. He played the key role in the Nazi "Seizure of Power" in January 1933 by appointing Hitler chancellor.

Röhm
1887-1934



Ernst Röhm was head of the SA (Brownshirts) up to July 1934. Many assumed that Röhm was a loyal member of the Nazi Party who had created an organisation (the SA) to protect Nazi Party meetings. However, fearing that Röhm was going to betray him, Hitler ordered his arrest and death in Night of the Long Knives.

Goebbels
1897-1945



Minister of Propaganda Nazi chancellor, a master orator and propagandist. He presented a favourable image of the regime to the German people. Following Hitler's suicide, Goebbels served as leader of Germany for a single day before he and his wife, Magda Goebbels, poisoned their six children and took their own lives.

Goring
1893-1946



Goring founded the Gestapo in 1933, appointed commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe (air force) in 1935. 1940, he introduced Four Year Plan, to build-the economy for WW2. His standing was reduced by 1943, when the Luftwaffe failed to stop the Allied bombing of German cities and was unable to resupply German forces in the Battle of Stalingrad. 1945 convicted of war crimes at the Nuremberg trials. He was sentenced to death by hanging, but committed suicide before the sentence was to be carried out.

Heydrich
1904-1942



A high-ranking German Nazi official during World War II, and a main architect of the Holocaust. He was an SS Officer and leader of SD and Gestapo. Described as "the man with the iron heart". He was involved with arrest of opposition groups, Kristallnacht, suppression of resistance in occupied Czechoslovakia. He was directly responsible for Einsatzgruppen (see sheet 2) which murdered over two million people, including 1.3 million Jews, by mass shooting and gassing.



Dictatorship



Key Question 1: How did the Nazis take control of Germany so quickly?

Background to Hitler and the Nazi Party, Nazi ideology (see timeline and definitions overleaf).



Key Question 2: How did Hitler establish the dictatorship – Jan' 1933-July 1933?

- Reichstag Fire:** (see timeline), Enabling Act (see timeline),
- Gleichschaltung:** The process of 'Nazification' (see definitions)
- Book Burning:** a campaign conducted by German students to ceremonially burn books that were viewed as being subversive written by Jewish, pacifist, religious or communist,
- Civil Service Act:** Jewish people were removed from public office and professions; civil servants, lawyers and teachers were sacked,
- Jewish Boycott:** Nazis refused to use Jewish shops and businesses,
- Opening of Dachau:** first concentration camp to deal with political opponents,
- Removal of Trade Unions :** workers rights removed their funds taken and their leaders put in prison. The workers were given a May Day holiday in return,
- Banning of other political parties:** a law was passed making it illegal to form a new political party. It also made the Nazi Party the only legal political party in Germany.



Key Question 3: How did the Nazis achieve total power - July -1933-August 1934?

- Control of local government:** Nazi officials 'Gauleiters' were put in charge of all local government in the provinces,
- People's Courts:** Special 'people's courts' made sure that opponents of the Nazis charged with treason were found guilty, even if there was little or no evidence,
- Night of Long Knives:** SA leaders are demanded that the Nazi party carry out its socialist agenda, and that the SA take over the army. Hitler could not afford to annoy the businessmen or the army, so the SS murdered 400 of the SA members, including its leader Röhm, along with a number of Hitler's other opponents,
- Death of Hindenburg:** (see key people) Hitler declared himself jointly president, chancellor and head of the army - the Führer or Leader.



Control and Opposition 1933-1939

Key words

<p>Lebensraum</p> 	<p>'Living space,' it was a basic principle of Nazi foreign policy. Hitler believed that eastern Europe had to be conquered to create a vast German empire for more physical space, a greater population, and new territory to supply food and raw materials.</p>
<p>Gleichschaltung</p> 	<p>The process of 'Nazification'; by which Nazi Germany successively established a system of totalitarian control and coordination over all aspects of society, "from the economy and trade associations to the media, culture and education".</p>
<p>Anti- Marxism/Anti - Communism</p> 	<p>Hitler believed Germany was in danger - from Communists. Communist Marxists believed in equality and capitalism. Hitler associated Communism and Marxism with Jews.</p>
<p>Anti- Semitism</p> 	<p>Prejudice against or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust was the state-sponsored persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. It is history's most extreme example of anti-Semitism.</p>
<p>Fuhrerprinzip</p> 	<p>Hitler was the supreme leader of Germany . Other leaders below Hitler had areas of responsibility which they had to manage. Loyalty and obedience to Hitler was crucial.</p>

Key Question 1: How did the Nazis tighten their grip on the German people? *'The Machinery of Terror'*

1. **SS:** Himmler, Gestapo (the official secret police),
2. **SD:** security section of SS led by Heydrich responsible for the security of the Nazi Party and removing opposition in the party for example Röhm,
3. **Concentration camps:** set up initially to detain political opponents, used to systematically kill masses of Jews,
4. **law courts:** Nazis created special courts to punish political dissent or opponents.



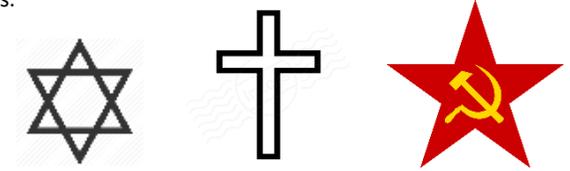
Key Question 2: How did the Nazis tighten their grip on the German people? *Propaganda*

How effective was Goebbels' propaganda: **newspapers, radio, culture, rallies** (large meetings where supporters listened to speeches and marched), **posters, film, Berlin Olympics?** Nazis used the 1936 Olympic Games for propaganda purposes to promote a new, strong, and united Germany. Anti-Semitism and other repressions was hidden from the outside world.



Key Question 3: How effective was opposition from the left and church leaders? *Left wing groups including Social Democrats, Communists.*

An espionage network which provided information to the Soviet army. The leader was Anton Saelfhrow. Activities included: vandalism, organising strikes, encouraging soldiers to flee from the army, **Church opposition from Catholics, Protestants and Jehovah Witnesses, role of Niemoller.** Founded the Confessing Church in 1934 with 6,000 ministers, leaving 2,000 behind in the National Reich Church, a challenge to the Nazis. Around 800 ministers were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Niemöller was arrested in 1937 and sent to Dachau, then Sachsenhausen, until 1945. **Schneider** - first Protestant minister to be martyred by the Nazis, **Cardinal Galen** - Catholic Bishop who criticised the Nazi euthanasia policy of killing people with mental illness.



Key Question 4: How effective was opposition from Youth Groups?

Edelweiss Pirates: anti-Nazi gangs of children, teenagers and young adults based in Leipzig , who aimed to destroy Nazi Control. They were similar to the Edelweiss Pirates, but more politically driven. Members came from working class families and borrowed from socialist and communist traditions. Between 1937 and 1939, there were an estimated 1500 members. A loosely organized group that rejected the strict regimentation of the Hitler Youth. They daubed anti-Nazi slogans, sheltered deserters and beat up Nazi officials. In 1944, the Cologne Pirates killed the Gestapo chief, 12 were hanged. **Swing Kids** (middle class). young people who were Inspired by the music of Britain and the USA, especially jazz. Swing clubs were opened where people danced the jitterbug. They listened to music that had been banned, **Leipzig gangs.**

<p>1918 Defeat of Germany in WW1</p> 	<p>1919 Treaty of Versailles, Germany forced to pay Reparations</p> 	<p>1923 Hitler failed in his attempt to seize power in Munich Putsch and was put in prison. Hitler wrote Mein Kampf 'My Struggle'</p>	<p>1929 Wall Street Crash led to global economic depression; unemployment and hyperinflation led to poverty and economic distress in Germany. The popularity of Nazis grew</p>	<p>1932 Hitler stood against Hindenburg for President. Hitler lost this election; Nazis gained 230 seats in the Reichstag and was the most popular party.</p>	<p>1933 Hindenburg invited Hitler to become Chancellor. Reichstag Fire, Enabling Act, Hitler banned political parties and Trade Unions.</p>	<p>1934 Night of the Long Knives, death of Hindenburg</p> 	<p>1935 Nuremberg Laws stopped Jews from being citizens, banned marriage between Jews and non-Jews</p>	<p>1936 Berlin Olympics. Exploited for propaganda.</p> 	<p>1938 Kristallnacht, Night of the Broken Glass</p> 
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