

Rise of Hitler

10/07/24

Chapter 2: Nazi Germany — ~~Hitler's~~ Impact of Hitler's rule

Hitler → SBQ

Issue: Weaknesses of the Weimar Government

(i) Unpopular from the start

- ✓ Germans were unhappy with the Weimar government for signing the Treaty of Versailles — **diktat** 'stabbed-in-the-back' theory as the German army had not been defeated and Germany was not invaded by the Allies, Weimar politicians were called '**November Criminals**'
- Treaty of Versailles led to a host of economic problems for Germany and weakened its economy further *pro Kaiser*
- Opposed by the right and left-wing politicians → *communism* → *faced opposition*
 - Left-winged were influenced by communism
 - Led the Spartacist rebellion ✓
 - Right-winged wanted to restore power to the Kaiser
 - Maintained a tough stand against the Treaty of Versailles
 - Kapp Putsch ✓

govt. was weak from the start:
no support from ppl

Bold: Links

→ Therefore, the Weimar government lost support within and outside of the Party

(ii) System of proportional representation worked against their favour

- System where a political party gained the number of seats according to the percentage of votes they gained → high degree of fragmentation in a government
- Government is made up of a coalition government → *weakness + ineffectiveness: unable to pass laws*
- Weimar Government did not possess the overall majority of votes *efficiently → bc of opposition*

Therefore, it made it difficult for the Weimar to pass laws and thus seen as weak and ineffective by the people.

(iii) Unable to manage the economic problems Germany faced

- Germany was unable to pay for the reparations e.g. in 1922, it failed to deliver coal and other resources to France so in Jan 1923, the French marched in and occupied the Ruhr industrial region
- Resorted to printing more paper money to solve Germany's economic problems without a corresponding increase in goods and service → inflation as the value of money declined
- Hyperinflation, wages could not keep up with prices; people lost their savings overnight
- The Great Depression escalated Germany's economic problems (e.g. cessation of loans from USA) *1929*

Therefore, the suffering made the Germans very bitter about their predicament. They blamed the Weimar government for their plight.

Note: Links not made to rise of Hitler here as it is addressing the problems of the Weimar Government

Link: weakness of Weimar

circumstances and environment
rise in
extremist ideas. aka. Hitler

→ how to gain support from people

Issue: Rise of Hitler to Power (~1933) (Link to Hitler obtaining support of the people)

masses / - party

Big 3

Nazi Ideology (I)

- Nazi Twenty-Five Point Programme (e.g. abolition of the Treaty of Versailles, nationalisation of large businesses, increase in old age pensions, establishment of a strong central government)
- Other promises Hitler made include reviving Germany's former glory, embark on territorial expansion to gain resources, expanding into Russia and Poland to create lebensraum (living space) → bring into another war
- The Nazi ideology appealed to the masses as it promised them political and social stability as well as economic improvements.

turn against gov, turn against Big Three (west)

cannot weigh: use internal vs ext.

Factor: Hitler's leadership qualities

Hitler's Charisma and Oratorical Skills (I)

- Hitler was also a powerful speaker and communicator
- He prepared and practised his speeches and was a master at gauging the mood of his audience
- He knew and addressed the concerns of the people, used slogans like "Down with the November Criminals"
- At the beer hall speeches, he would start off calmly and logically and proceed to rant and rave once the audience got drunk
- By promising the Germans that he would address their concerns, Hitler endeared himself to the people and therefore got their votes. By using terms such as "November Criminals", he also managed to stir anti-Weimar feelings and turn the people against them and support the Nazis.

play on people's emotions

Exploitation of People's Fear of Communism (I)

- Germans feared a communist takeover of the country; farmers feared the communists as they believed they would take away their lands and assets; businessmen were afraid that their businesses would be taken over by the state and were also wary of the strength of the trade unions
- The Nazis hailed themselves as anti-Communists and this gained the support of those who feared the communists. Moreover, the businessmen contributed money to the Nazi's cause and the Nazis used this money in their campaigns leading up to the 1932 elections (e.g. fund more rallies). This helped the Nazis expand their reach. In addition, the Nazis also used Alfred Hugenberg's film studios to create propaganda films. This enabled the Nazis to widen their influence among the masses.

weakness of W. that gave Hitler to use his charisma to dom the ppl - a platform for H to reach out & influence

Weakness of the Weimar Government (E)

- (Elaboration on previous page)
- The weaknesses of the Weimar Government caused the Germans to lose their support, confidence and trust in them. In turn, they gravitated towards extremists such as the Nazis, who made promises such as abolishing the Treaty of Versailles. To the people, it seemed that the Nazis could solve Germany's problems and make Germany a great country again. Therefore, they supported Hitler, leading to Hitler's rise to power.

- Hitler's leadership qual are equally important. - needs skill to influence ppl

History - Facts & Links

x propaganda bc elaborate isn't strong - no solid examples

• abolish Treaty
• Create living space
• bring Ger. to former glory

↓
extremist ideas

outcome & impact on (G) country P ✓
E ✓

Issue: Impact of Hitler's Rule

→ PEEL

Social: Germans, ppl
link: loss freedom

Also consider: How did Hitler control the people?

*link will change according to ppl

(Remember to link to listen, obey, dare not defy, do one's bidding)

Consider: Was Hitler's rule a success or failure? Was Hitler a good leader? Did Hitler's rule benefit the Germans? good leader: foresight, cares & look after ppl

Political One

- Hitler became the dictator of Germany
- Consolidated his power by eliminating his opponents through the Reichstag Fire (Communists) and the Night of the Long Knives (SA)
- His authority grew by the enforcement of the Enabling Act which allowed him to pass laws without the President's approval of the Reichstag (parliament)
- Hitler then made the Nazi Party the only legal political party in Germany and dissolved trade unions
- In August 1934, Hitler became the Führer of Germany, having combined the powers of the President and Chancellor
- **Impact:** Loss of political freedom for the people, Germany came under an authoritarian government where opposition was not tolerated, no one to check Hitler's power, every one in the country was at his mercy

Economic ✓ One

- Initiated public works programme such as building of roads, motoways and public buildings
- Introduced conscription in 1935 and this created jobs as men were needed to make war materials such as weapons, equipment and uniform and build the German airforce (the Luftwaffe) -again st Tol
- Strength Through Joy scheme which organised activities such as concerts, movies and courses to control people's leisure time, introduced scheme to help people own the KdF-Wagen ↳ strength thru Joy
- **Impact:** Reduced unemployment and improved working conditions
- Rise of big industrialists due to Germany's plan for war as they were given big government contracts
- Introduced the DAF (German Work Front) which seek to control employers and employees; workers no longer able to strike or bargain for pay raise, needed government's permission to change jobs, had 'work books' in which employers made comments about them
- **Impact:** Workers lost their freedom and benefits on the work front, were strictly controlled, working conditions did not improve overall

Social

propaganda

- Nazi propaganda: Set up the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda with Joseph Goebbels as Minister of Propaganda
- Fashioned Hitler as the 'saviour' of Germany, posters and portraits of Hitler were spread throughout Germany
- Stirred up anti-Semitic and anti-communist feelings --> increase German nationalism
- Nuremberg rallies: marches, processions, films broadcast with a pro-Nazi message
- Press censorship: Reich Chamber of Commerce was set up to deal with literature, art, music, radio, film and newspapers and ensure that they did not publish anything anti-Nazi

• **Impact:** People were greatly influenced to hero-worship Hitler as their saviour of the country, Hitler became highly respected, adored, for artistes, there was a lack of freedom of expression (due to censorship)

- SS and Gestapo: removed threats to the Nazi Party, could detain persons without trial and had unlimited powers of arrest; people were arrested based on suspicion that they might commit a crime, people were closely watched by the Gestapo

• **Impact:** Atmosphere of fear and suspicion, lack of freedom of movement

- Persecution of the Jews: Boycott Jewish businesses, all Jewish shops were marked with the Star of David or Juden, segregation at public places, burnt books by Jews, not allowed to practise their professions

• Nuremberg Laws

• Night of the Broken Glass

• Ghettos

- The 'Final Solution' - The Holocaust - where millions of Jews were brought to concentration camps and extermination camps. Jews were either sent to the gas chambers or made to do hard labour. Some were subjects of scientific experiments.

• **Impact:** Loss of innocent lives, total lack of regard for humanity, Jews were robbed of their freedom and dignity

- Hitler Youth: compulsory for all Aryan German youths; boys were subjected to military training, girls were taught in domestic science

• **Impact:** Roles defined at young age, German boys were eventually sent to war

- Women: Confined to homefront as dutiful wives and spouses; not given political positions, discouraged from pursuing university studies

• **Impact:** Policies were oppressive to women, took away their employment rights, defined their role in society

systematic

high Impact: short-term success

long-term suffering, psychological trauma