

HOW HITLER CAME TO POWER

30th january 1933 -

[Hitler's policies] were half-baked, racist clap-trap... but among the jumble of hysterical ideas Hitler showed a sure sense of how to appeal to the lowest instincts of frightened masses.

He was holding the masses, and me with them, under an hypnotic spell by the sheer force of his beliefs. His words were like a whip. When he spoke of the disgrace of Germany, I felt ready to attack any enemy.

Karl Ludecke, an early follower of Hitler (1924)

HEINRICH BRÜNING

30 MARCH 1930 – 30 MAY 1932

- First Chancellor after Depression started set of unpopular reforms
 - raised taxes, cut social obligations

Started to use Article 48 of Constitution excessively

Tried to imply agrarian reform that would give land to simple Germans and was quickly released from office

Banned NSDAP as too extremist



PAUL VON HINDENBURG

12 MAY 1925 – 2 AUGUST 1934

- 2nd president of Weimar
- Ex- ww1 general known for his nationalist views

Chief of General Staff during war

Didn't like Weimar idea of democracy and even tried to turn it into presidential Republic

In 1929 when Depression started he turned 82 !!!



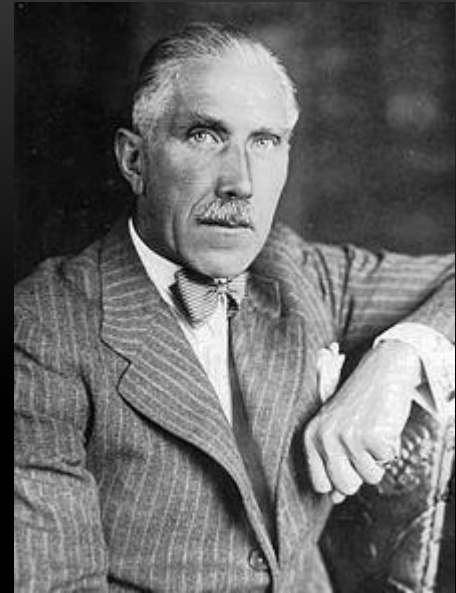
FRANZ VON PAPEN

1 JUNE – 17 NOVEMBER 1932

- New Chancellor supposed to bring an order into chaos of Weimar politics
- Too conservative and cautious
- Was impressed by Hitler's energy and persuaded Hindenburg that Hitler might be controlled

Freed Nazis from ban

Couldn't hold to power and had to rely on Hitler



ADOLF HITLER

30 JANUARY 1933 – 30 APRIL 1945

- Became Chancellor in January 1933 after Hindenburg was asked to do so by many industrialists and Papen himself

3 weeks in office he set up a “Reichstag Fire” – plotted arsony that let him blame Communist (2nd biggest party in Reichstag) in everything

... a time of democracy has ended



ELECTIONS OF 14TH SEPTEMBER 1930

Party	Vote percentage (change)		Seats (change)	
<u>Social Democratic Party of Germany</u> (SPD)	24.5%	-5.3%	143	-10
<u>National Socialist German Workers Party</u> (NSDAP)	18.3%	+15.7%	107	+95
<u>Communist Party of Germany</u> (KPD)	13.1%	+2.5%	77	+23
<u>Centre Party</u> (Z)	11.8%	-0.3%	68	+7
<u>German National People's Party</u> (DNVP)	7.0%	-7.3%	41	-32

ELECTIONS OF 31 JULY 1932

Party	Vote percentage (change)		Seats (change)	
<u>National Socialist German Workers Party</u> (NSDAP)	37.8%	+19.0%	230	+123
<u>Social Democratic Party of Germany</u> (SPD)	21.9%	-2.9%	133	-10
<u>Communist Party of Germany</u> (KPD)	14.6%	+1.2%	89	+12
<u>Centre Party</u> (Z)	12.3%	+0.6%	75	+7
<u>German National People's Party</u> (DNVP)	6.1%	-1.1%	37	-4

ELECTIONS OF 6TH NOVEMBER 1932

Party	Vote percentage (change)		Seats (change)	
<u>National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP)</u>	33.1%	-4.2%	196	-34
<u>Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)</u>	20.4%	-1.2%	121	-12
<u>Communist Party of Germany (KPD)</u>	16.9%	+2.6%	100	+11
<u>Centre Party (Z)</u>	11.9%	-0.5%	70	-5
<u>German National People's Party (DNVP)</u>	8.5%	+2.6%	52	+15

ELECTIONS OF 5TH MARCH 1933

Party	Vote percentage	(%change)	Seats	(%change)
<u>National Socialist German Workers Party</u> (NSDAP)	43.9%	+10.8%	288	+92
<u>Social Democratic Party</u> (SPD)	18.3%	-2.1%	120	-1
<u>Communist Party</u> (KPD)	12.3%	-4.6%	81	-19
<u>Centre Party</u> (Z)	11.2%	-0.7%	74	+4

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 1932

Candidate	Votes (%)	Party membership
<u>Paul von Hindenburg</u>	19,359,983 (53.1)	<i>Incumbent with no party affiliation</i>
<u>Adolf Hitler</u>	13,418,517 (36.7)	<u>National Socialist German Workers Party or Nazi Party (NSDAP)</u>
<u>Ernst Thälmann</u>	3,706,759 (10.1)	<u>Communist Party (KPD)</u>

SS TERROR

- Hitler never hesitated to use policy of terror
- Formed in 1925 as parallel to SA group
- Goal – party leader protection, terror against communist and jews
- High sense of order, and subordination to its leader Himmler and party Fuhrer

MACHTERGREIFUNG (SEIZE OF POWER)

- Term coined by Nazis to stress the active part of coming to power
- How true is this??
- Sneaking to power was followed by policy of **Gleichschaltung**
- (gleich = alike, the same (ru – равный, одинаковый, подобный) schaltung – switching, circuit (ru – управление, соединение))
- Policy of leveling political life by destroying political competitors and abusing personal rights

NO POWER BUT NAZI

- POLITICALLY
- Hitler set up reichstag fire to blame communist for it and to use article in constitution to ban communist party and soon enough all other political powers
- By 1934 all parties and trade unions were prohibited
- In 1934 upon death of aged president Hindenburg Hitler merge posts of President and Chancellor thus becoming FUHRER – an end of separating powers

UNITED THOUGHTS=UNITED NATION

- SOCIALLY
- Strictly prohibited any forms of gathering and meetings apart from officially approved – no trade unions, no hobby clubs
- All children absolutely must be a part of number of youth organization (from age of 10 to age of 18)
- In 18 any citizen MUST work an obligatory year in farm
- Instead of trade unions all workers MUST be a part of recreational program Strength Through Joy (Kraft durch Freude) – a form to receive a vacation or spend spare time