

# Edexcel GCSE History (1-9) Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1919-39

## Key Topic 2: Hitler's Rise to Power, 1919-33

### 1. How did the Nazi Party gain support 1920-23?

- **Military uniforms** demonstrated strength at a time when the government was weak
- Use of **force against Communists and Trade Unionists** was popular with businesses
- **Popular policies and speeches.** End of ToV

- The '**Stab-in-the-back**' myth the idea that the German army did not lose the war but civilians, especially Jews were responsible in Germany
- Hitler adopted the **swastika** as the emblem of the party and the use of the raised arm salute
- **Sturmabteilung (SA)** also commonly known as the 'brownshirts' were used as protection

### 2. What were the causes and consequences of the Munich Putsch.

#### Causes of Munich Putsch

- Hitler hated the Weimar government
- People hated the ToV
- Weimar was blamed for hyperinflation
- German humiliation following the French occupation of the Ruhr
- SA were used as armed support Hitler had won the support of General Ludendorff, the former commander-in-chief, extremely popular figure
- Hitler was confident the army in Bavaria would support him

The Nazis seek to take control of the government by force. It fails and he is imprisoned.

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#### Consequences of the Munich Putsch - Short term and long term

- The failure of the Munich Putsch shows that power needed to be taken by getting the **popular vote** and not using violence
- The trial gave Hitler **nationwide publicity** (national press). The sympathetic judges allowed him to make long speeches which were reported. He became famous
- When in prison he wrote '**Mein Kampf**' setting out his ideas

### 3. What were Hitler's ideas and beliefs including 'Mein Kampf'?

The 25 Point Programme included:

- Get rid of the ToV
- To gain Lebensraum (living space) To create a greater Germany where all German speaking people would live as one nation
- All the problems of German society were caused by Jews. All Jews would be eliminated from Germany

### 4. What was the impact of the Wall Street Crash on Germany?

#### The impact of the Crash

German prosperity (wealth) depended on the USA and so when the stock market collapsed in 1929 it had huge consequences for Germany.

- The **USA withdrew loans** made under the Dawes Plan, Germany exports suffered
- **Unemployment rose** -employers sacked workers - factories closed. 1932 = 6 million unemployed
- The Nazis promised a way out of the depression ='Work and Bread'
- The workers wanted **jobs**
- The middle classes feared a **communist revolution**. (The German Communist Party was growing)

### What part did the Wall Street Crash play in Hitler's Rise to Power?

- Hitler offered strong leadership, stability and prosperity (wealth)
- The Crash ended the stability of the Golden Years - people were 'doubly bitter'
- The Weimar Republic introduced **unpopular policies** - raising taxes, cutting wages and reducing unemployment benefit.
- Hitler promised bread, jobs and homes.

### 5. Why was the Nazi party successful after 1930?

#### Propaganda - The Role of Josef Goebbels

- Rallies, posters, radio
- Early 1930's the Nazis owned 120 newspapers, read by hundreds of thousands of people.

### Success in Elections

- The Great depression increased unemployment = increased Nazi votes
- The Nazi message was that Weimar government was to blame for the economic problems
- The Nazis said that it was them alone that could get Germany out of the economic crisis
- Hitler used the Jews as a scapegoat. He blamed them for all of Germany's problems

### The Presidential Election of 1932

- The presidential election of 1932 Hitler stood against Hindenburg
- The Nazis used technology flying Hitler from one rally to another to get maximum exposure
- Hindenburg did not campaign
- Hindenburg failed to get more than 50 per cent of the vote
- Hitler did not get victory but increased his share of the vote