Hitler’s Rise to Power & The Rise of Nazi Germany

Who was Adolf Hitler?
How did Hitler gain power in Weimar Germany?
Destruction of World War I
The Death Toll of World War I
Other “Casualties” of World War I
Obligations of the Treaty of Versailles
Instability of the New German (Weimar) Government
The Rise of Adolf Hitler
What was Hitler’s Early Life Like?

- Born to Alois and Klara Hitler in Austria (1889)
  - Fought often w/ father
  - Adored his mother
  - Paternal Grandfather - Jewish

- Not a great student, but dreamed of an artist’s life
  - Fathers death (1905) allowed him to leave school
Hitler’s Mother, Klara Hitler
The Grave of Hitler’s Parents (Austria)
What was Hitler like as a young man?

- After leaving school, Hitler goes to Vienna
  - Applies for the Academy of Fine Arts
  - Failed the entrance exam twice
- Worked as an artists in the city
  - Developed his extreme nationalism & anti-Semitism
- Moved to Munich in Germany (1913)
Decadence of the Weimar Republic
Hitler’s Paintings
How does World War I Influence Hitler?

- He served in German Army as a courier
  - Wounded and received two Iron Crosses for bravery.
  - First success in his life

- Blamed Germany’s defeat on Jews, Communists, and “November Criminals” - signers of T.O.V.
Hitler in World War I (1915)
Hitler’s Job as a Courier
Hitler’s WWI Decorations
How did Hitler Join the German Workers Party?

- Hitler remains in the army after WWI
  - Promoted / assigned to investigate fellow soldiers

- Is invited to join the party in 1919 after a speech denouncing Germany's enemies
Hitler, the Speaker
What was the NAZI Party?

- German Workers Party changed to National Socialist German Workers Party ("NAZI" Party - 1920)
  - Originally founded in 1919
  - Nationalistic
  - Anti-Semitic
  - Anti-Communist
- Hitler views the party as the perfect vehicle for further political goals
Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei (D. A. P.)
Ortgruppe München

Mitgliedskarte

für den Arzt Hitler, alt. 29
München, den 1. Jan. 1920

Diese Karte gilt als Ausweis bei geschlossenen Versammlungen
What was the Beer Hall Putsch?

- Failed NAZI Party Revolution to overthrow the Weimar government
  - Munich, 1923

- Hitler is charged w/ treason & is sentenced to 5 years in prison
  - Dictates *Mein Kampf*
The Gathering of Rebel Forces
Landsberg Prison
What is *Mein Kampf*?

- Hitler’s Book *Mein Kampf* = “My Struggle”
  - Dictated during his four and a half years in prison

- Blueprint for Germany’s future
  1. **Racism** - hatred for Jews
  2. **Lebensraum** (living space) expansion of Germany’s border
  3. **World Domination**
What happened to Hitler following his release from prison?

- After his release, The Weimar government puts extreme restrictions on Hitler / Nazi Party
  - Limits on public access

- Hitler learned a valuable lesson...
  - Use democratic means
What did Hitler offer to the German people as a politician?

- Promises, Promises
  - Nationalists - Restore Germany to Greatness
  - Wealthy Industrialist – stop communism
  - Workers – end unemployment

- Blamed “others” for Germany’s Problems
  - “Undesirables”
  - “November Criminals”
  - Weimar Republic
How does Hitler rise to power?

- “Brownshirts” (SA) – Hitler’s private army
  - Used “terror” tactics to eliminate opposition / critics

- Used speeches and propaganda to gain support of average citizens (public opinion)

- Nazi Party gains votes in Reichtag (German Parliament):
  - 1930 = 18% of vote
  - 1932 = 37% of vote

- Hitler appointed Chancellor (Prime Minister) in 1933
The SA - “Brownshirts”
Hitler at “Brownshirts” Headquarters (1930)
Ernst Röhm (1887 – 1934)
How does Hitler gain complete power in Germany?

- In 1933, Hitler makes a grab for complete power
  - A fire burns the German Reichstag
  - Hitler blames it on “Communists”

- The Enabling Act (1933)
  - Gives Hitler absolute power for a “short” period
The Day at Potsdam (1933)
Prussian honour is allied to the new barbarism at the official opening ceremony of the first sitting of the Reichstag during the Thousand-Year Reich, 21 March 1933. Hitler and Hindenburg sit side-by-side at the Garrison Church of Potsdam; as ever, Hitler eschews uniform when appearing alongside the bemedalled Field Marshal.
SPINELESS LEADERS OF DEMOCRACY

STEPPING STONES TO GLORY.
Hindenburg’s Death (1934)
An Oath of Allegiance from the German military...
“Da Führer” – “The Leader”
The Night of Long Knives (1934)
What actions did Hitler take as Der Führer – The Leader?

- Ignored the T.O.V.
  - Rebuilt Army & Opened Weapons Factories
  - Stopped reparations payments

- Economy improved
  - New Jobs - military sector
  - Decreased unemployment

- Eliminated political opposition

- Began planning for expansion of the Third Reich (Third Empire)
Rebuilding the German Military
The Luftwaffe (Air Force)

Herman Goering
Hitler’s “New Deal” Programs
Hitler’s “New Deal” Programs
The Autobahn
Hitler’s Inspiration?
Single Party Political System
Nuremberg Rallies
The Hitler Youth
What was the “Jewish Problem”?

- Hitler’s belief that Aryan German’s were the “Master Race” – blond hair, blue eyes, strong and disciplined

- Singled out Jews specifically for many of German’s issues

- Racism and propaganda used to create distrust and hatred against Jews and non-Aryans.
Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945)
Nazi Anti-Jewish Propaganda
What actions did Hitler take to solve the “Jewish Problem”

- **1935 Nuremburg Laws**
  - Stipped Jews of Citizenship
  - Can’t Hold Public Office
  - Barred From Schools
  - Boycott Jewish Businesses
  - Banned non-Jews from marriage to Jews

- **1938 Night of Broken Glass**
  - Jews attacked on streets
  - Jewish businesses vandalized
  - Burned Synagogues
  - Many Jews shot or sent to prison camps
The Nuremburg Laws (1935)
The Night of Broken Glass (1938)
What did the future hold for Hitler and Nazi Germany?

- Many European countries worried that Hitler might start a larger conflict
  - “Only wanted peace”

- In reality...
  - Conflict was coming...