

THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC AND THE RISE OF NAZI GERMANY

Germany in 1914

Kaiser Wilhelm II (hereditary monarch):

- Appoints **Government** Chancellor
Ministers
- Calls/Dismisses the **Reichstag** which can stop laws proposed by the government, but cannot make laws. (However, electors; Men over 25 can vote for its members)
- Controls **The Army**

Germany at war's end

- Kaiser abdicates (1918)
- Weimar Republic proclaimed, 1919
 - Accepts peace dictated by allies Treaty of Versailles
 - Executive-Elected President
And Hand picked Chancellor-
 - Legislative-Reichstag- law making group



Key points to the Weimar Constitution

1. The German Reich is a republic. State power comes from people

13. National law takes precedence

22. Delegates are elected by universal, equal, direct elections men and women.

41. President is elected by all Germans



48. President may use army in cases of disturbance or danger. May suspend Fundamental rights in times of danger. Reichstag can demand these rights back

53. Chancellor shall be appointed by the President

109. All Germans Equal in front of the Law

118. Every German can express opinion freely in word, writing, print or image

135. All inhabitants enjoy full religious freedom

Weimar Germany (1919-1933)

- **Bill of Rights** promises all Germans equality before the law and political and religious freedom.
- **Electors** All men and women over the age of 20 can vote, both presidential and parliament.
- **Freidrich Ebert** is the first elected president – the President controls **the Army**
- **Reichstag** (elected) controls from which is selected based on party percentage (representative parliament)
- **Chancellor** controls the Reichstag
- Ministers must have a majority in the Reichstag, and do as the Reichstag says.

Basic overview: 1919–1923

- At first the Weimar Republic had great difficulties:
 - Left wing rebellions
 - All people were angry with it
 - Right-wing rebellions and terrorism
 - Invasion and inflation
 - Munich Putsch

- Loss of territory: Alsace-Lorraine, Poland
- Clause 231: blame for war, along with allies
- Reparations: \$5B per year in gold until final bill set in 1921
- Demilitarized Rhineland; allies to occupy area until 1935
- France to mine Ruhr for 15 years
- Military dramatically reduced to defensive use



Europe, at 1919, with stripes showing territory lost by Germany and Russia

The Kapp Putsch

Events:

- Right wing journalist opposed the Ebert government and the humiliation of Germany at Versailles
- Along with two key military officers (General Luddwitz and General Ludendorff) and the paramilitary Freikorps he seized control of Berlin and declared a new right wing government
- Ebert fled but called on the people to organize a nationwide strike.
- The strike was effective and made the coup unsustainable

Significances:

- The support of the army could not be taken for granted
- There was not universal support for the Weimar Government
- The Government had limited means of dealing with uprisings of this nature
- Politicians were not necessarily safe in Berlin

1919-1923 Initial Collapse

- ❑ **1921: Allies set reparations at 132B goldmarks; Germany agreed under threat of invasion**
- ❑ **Germany refused cooperation with France in Ruhr:**
- ❑ **France entered Ruhr (1923) to regain and use resources in lieu of payment; German government tried to pay idle workers**
- ❑ **Government borrowed heavily, and printed paper marks to repay bonds**
- ❑ **Rampant inflation struck middle and lower classes even more**

Problems 1919-1924

- Anger directed at the government for signing the Treaty of Versailles
- The new constitution reliant on coalition governments, which weakens its power
- Economic problems as all profit is sent directly to the Allies as reparations pay-outs
- Valueless currency as economic crisis leads to hyper-inflation
- Rise of extremist groups attempting to wrestle power from the de-stabilised government (**Freikorps**, **Spartacists** etc.)
- Opposition Uprisings & disillusioned military members (freikorps)
- The Communist Spartacists in 1919, defeated by the right-wing militia of the Freikorps
- 1919 Freikorps in Bavaria also put down the strengthening Bavarian Communist Movement
- The right-wing Kapp Putsch, defeated by a general strike

1923 Gustav Stresemann

Chancellor Aug-Nov 1923

- ❑ Abandoned passive resistance in Ruhr; cooperated with France to avoid ruinous government spending
- ❑ Hjalmar Schacht, financial minister, helped create new stable currency
- ❑ Stresemann became foreign minister, and renegotiated reparations and border disputes



Basic Overview: 1923–1929

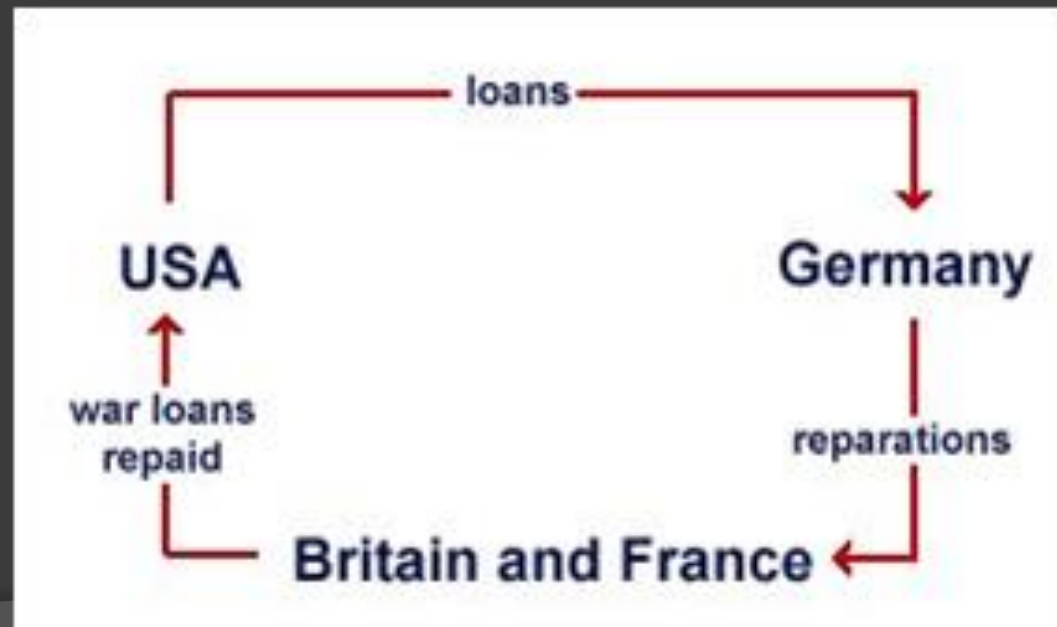
- ❑ But the Republic survived and (after Gustav Stresemann became Chancellor in 1923) did well:
- ❑ Economic Prosperity
- ❑ Foreign Policy successes
- ❑ Cultural flowering

Stressmann' s negotiated Adjustments to Versailles

- ⦿ Reparations were rescheduled twice:
 - (1) 1924 Dawes Plan lowered payments and tied them to Germany economic growth; gave allies some control over German economy
 - (2) 1929 Young Plan reduced payments, limited time, removed Germany from outside control
- ⦿ Lausanne Treaty 1932 essentially ended reparations
- ⦿ 1926 – Germany joined the League of Nations
- ⦿ Kellogg –Briand Pact – 1928 (Stressemann awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!)
- ⦿ Locarno Treaty (1925):
 - Germany and France agreed upon Versailles border
 - France to withdraw troops by 1930
 - Germany admitted to League of Nations
 - UK and Italy to intervene in case of attack on border

Dawes plan (1924):

- Rescheduling of German reparations payments – make them manageable
- U.S. loans to Germany
 - Enable Germany to make payments to France
 - Enabling France to repay U.S.



Locarno Treaties

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland met at Locarno in Switzerland.

Signed a number of treaties to settle disputes between themselves

1. France, Belgium and Germany agreed to accept borders as drawn up by Treaty of Versailles
2. Rhineland stayed demilitarised
3. France would protect Poland and Czechoslovakia if attacked by Germany
4. Germany would not use force to settle disputes with neighbours

Other features of the Stresemann Years

- **Golden age of German cinema**
- **Night life, cabaret**
- **Removal of censorship**
- **Unemployment and poverty still high**
- **Growing prosperity based on USA loans –
what would happen if USA wanted the money back ?**

POSITIVES

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HITLER AND THE RISE OF NAZI GERMANY

Adolf Hitler's Early Life

- Hitler was born on April 20th, 1889 in AUSTRIA
- He had a poor relationship with his father and was very close to his mother
- He was an aspiring painter, and was twice rejected by the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna
- It was at this time, in 1908, that Hitler began a movement based on the beliefs that Germans were the master race

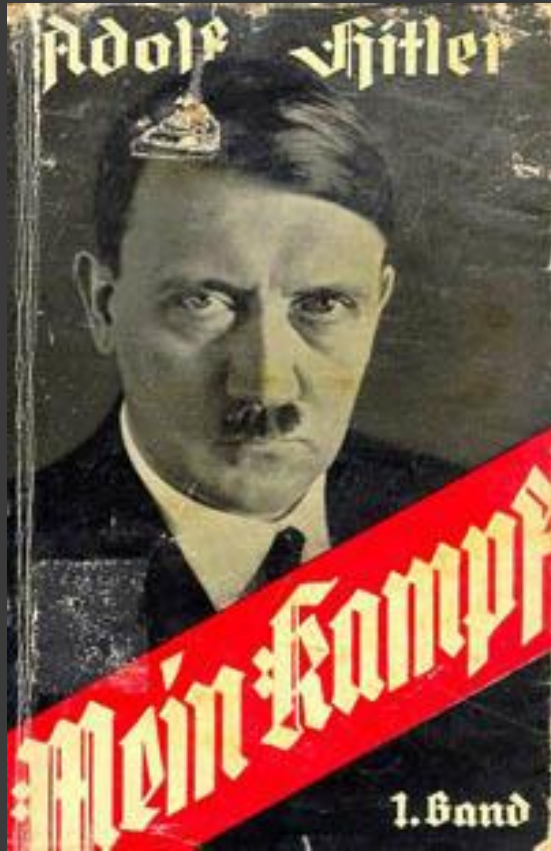


Hitler and Early Politics

- Hitler helped form the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) in 1919 and assumed leadership in 1921
- Beer Hall Putsch ('pooch') November 8th, 1923
 - Attempt by Hitler to seize power and overthrow the Bavarian government for signing the Treaty of Versailles
 - The attempt failed and Hitler was imprisoned for five years for high treason (but he was released after only serving one year – he was not considered a threat to the public)



Mein Kampf



- Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (“My Struggle”) in 1925 while he was in prison
- This became the Nazi ideology – and it attacked Jews, Communists, democracy, and the Treaty of Versailles
- Hitler also wrote that Germany needed to destroy the French Nation and conquer Russia, among other things
- The book sold/distributed 10 million copies between 1925-1934

Hitler's Ideas

Superior Aryan Race must be kept clean.

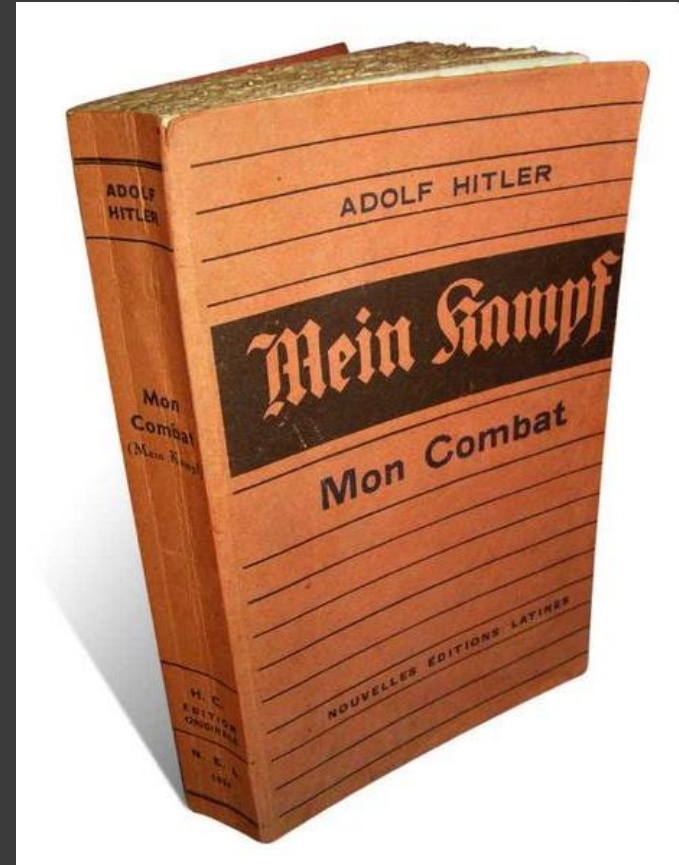
Lebensraum

Jews undermining Germany

Anti-Communist

Abolish Versailles

Weimar weak



Why Nazism became popular.

Weak governments

Economic problems

Great depression

Popular policies on Versailles,
Communism, Jews.

Violence. SA 'Brownshirts'
(Rohm) SS and Gestapo
(Himmler)

Propaganda

Hitler's personality (speeches)



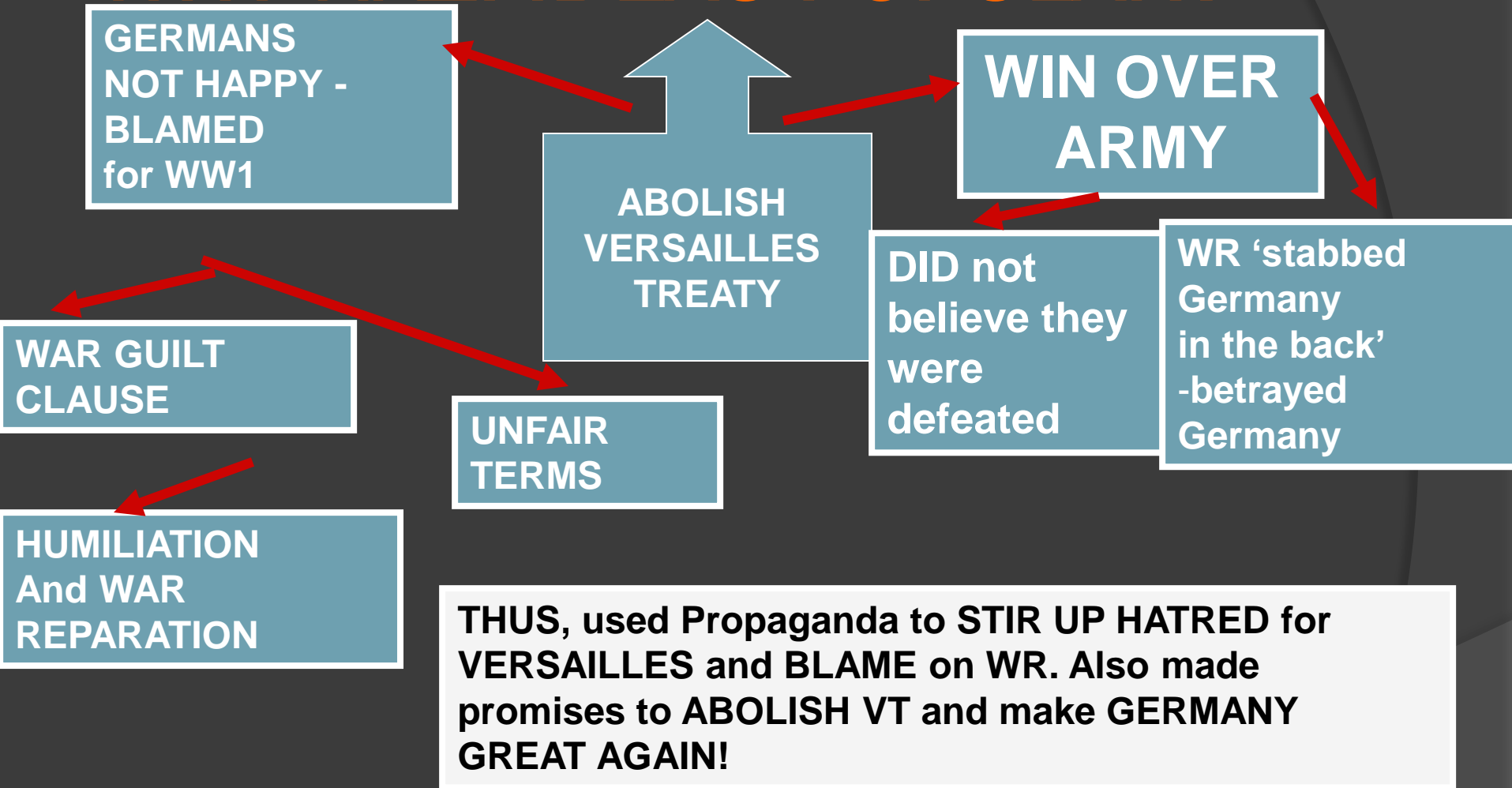
NAZI POPULARITY 1918-23

- Hitler's ideas very popular in this period because **Germany facing economic crisis**
- Weimar govt could not solve economic problems created by invasion of Ruhr and hyperinflation
- Extremist parties very popular - especially NAZIS
- (**1922-3000 members**) because **people were desperate**
- Hitler's **political propaganda and speeches soon gained him mass support**, especially with the **middle class (lost jobs, and savings became worthless)**
- In 1921, Hitler became the Party Chairman- set up private army, the SA (brownshirts) who **used VIOLENCE** against opponents like Communists

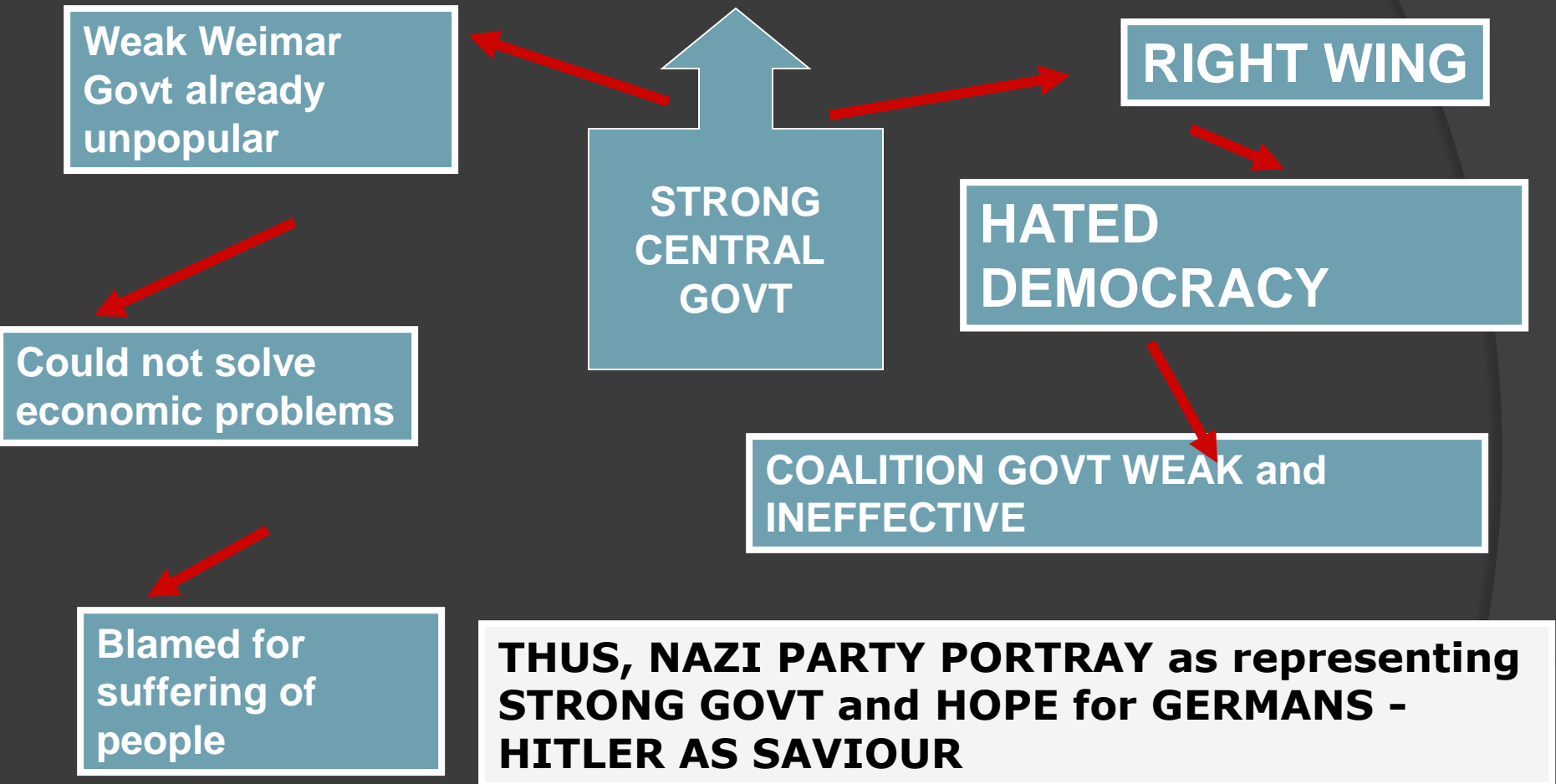
What Did The Nazi Stand For in 1920s?



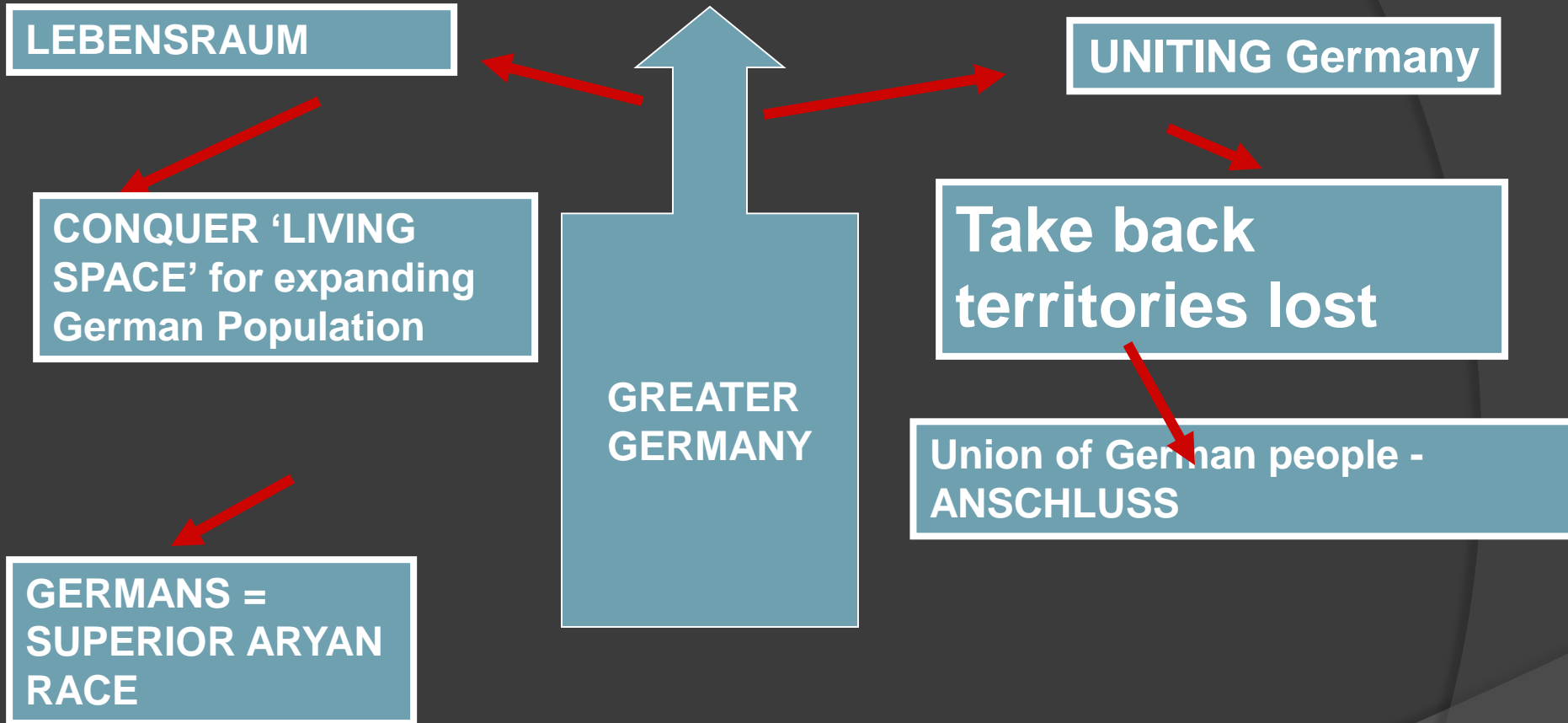
WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



THUS, popular with NATIONALISTS (RIGHT WING) who wanted a strong and united GERMAN EMPIRE- promised to rearm to make Germany strong again

WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?

**JEWS made
SCAPEGOATS**

Communists

**GET RID OF
JEWS and
COMMUNISTS**

**Blamed for ALL OF
Germany's problems**

**Feared by rich
businessman and middle-
class**

**Create disorder - strikes by workers and
wanted classless society**

**Humiliation of VT,
HYPERINFLATION,
UNEMPLOYMENT**

**THUS, NAZIS ideas popular because Germans
looking for someone to blame for problems**

Was Munich Putsch A Complete Failure?

However, the **Putsch** did help Hitler as :

- ⦿ Used the trial **to PUBLICISE his ideas** and to **condemn the Weimar Republic**.
- ⦿ The trial made him **FAMOUS** and gave him a lot of **publicity**.
- ⦿ In Prison Hitler thought about the methods he had used to try and take control.
- ⦿ He realised that the Nazi's would need to **use LEGAL METHODS to get power** through **ELECTIONS** and that he needed to **BUILD UP WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR HIS PARTY** in order to **achieve this**. Thus, Hitler wrote his infamous book "**Mein Kampf**" (My Struggle). **This helped him to publicise his ideas**.

WHY MUNICH PUTSCH WAS TURNING POINT FOR HITLER AND NAZIS?

- ⦿ Failure of MP convinced Hitler that **ONLY WAY** of getting **POWER** was **BY LEGAL MEANS!**
- ⦿ **CHANGED IN STRATEGY** between **1924-29!**

How Did Hitler REBUILD POPULARITY of NAZI PARTY?

REORGANISED PARTY

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graph TD; A[REORGANISED PARTY] --> B[HITLER as Führer (SUPREME LEADER)]; A --> C[Adopted outstretched arm as salute]; A --> D[SET UP BRANCHES OF PARTY]; B --> E[TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO LEADER]; C --> F[SA and SS - smart uniforms and discipline - even better organised than police - gave image of order and discipline which people wanted]; D --> G[SET UP PARA-MILITARY Organisations (SA, SS, Hitler Youth)]; E --> H[Designed NAZI Flag with SWASTIKA - RED, White and Black]; F --> H; G --> H;
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**HITLER as Führer
(SUPREME LEADER)**

**Adopted outstretched
arm as salute**

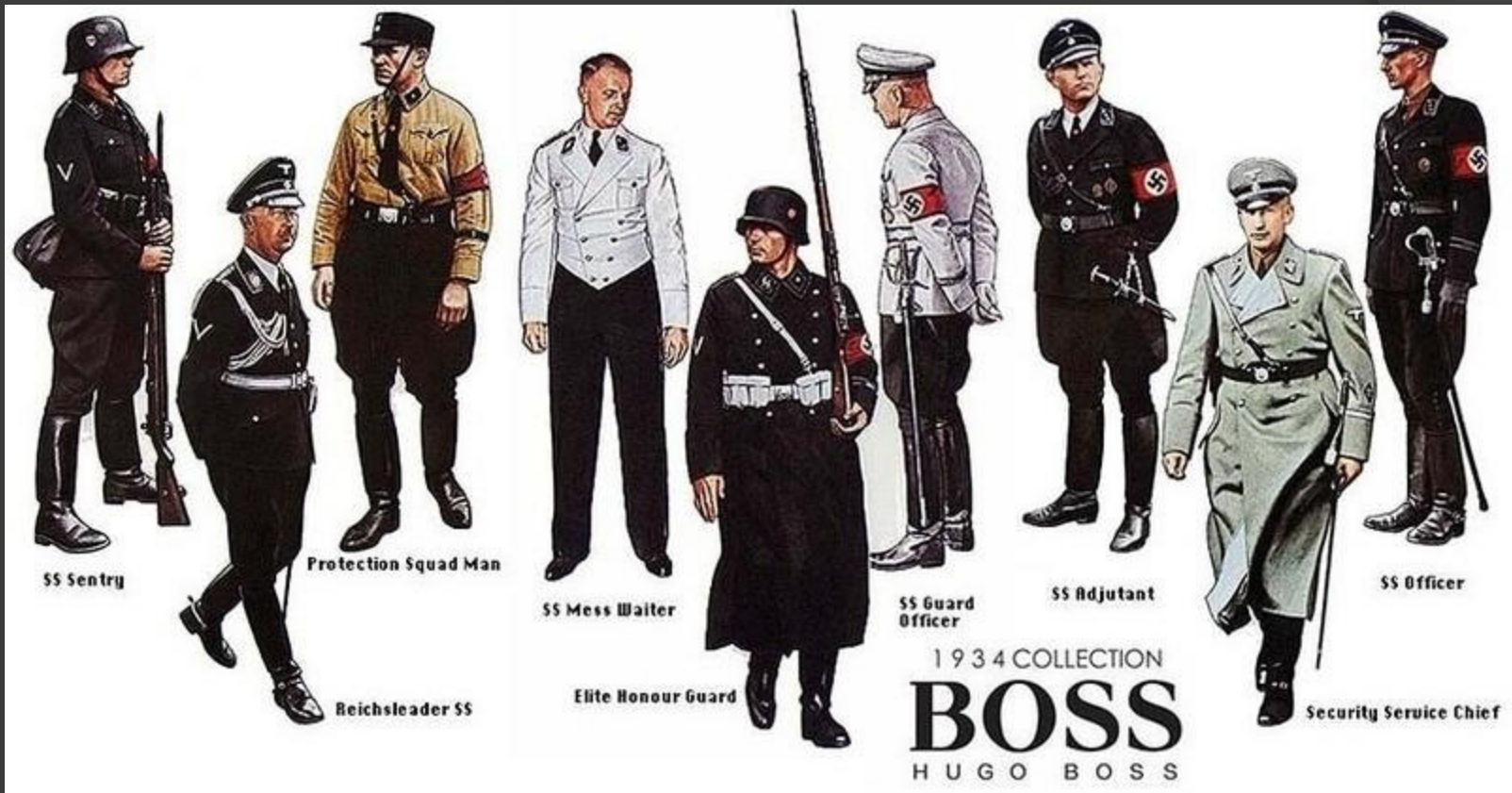
**SET UP BRANCHES
OF PARTY**

**TOTAL OBEDIENCE
TO LEADER**

**SA and SS - smart
uniforms and discipline -
even better organised than
police - gave image of
order and discipline which
people wanted**

**SET UP PARA-
MILITARY
Organisations (SA,
SS, Hitler Youth)**

**Designed NAZI Flag
with SWASTIKA -
RED, White and
Black**



“The company said it had become aware of the dealings with the Nazis after the name of its founder, Hugo Boss, who died in 1948, appeared on a list of dormant accounts released by Swiss bankers last month.” NYTIMES 1997

WHY REORGANISED PARTY

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graph TD; A[WHY REORGANISED PARTY] --> B[Make Party Look STRONG and DISCIPLINED]; A --> C[ATTRACT MORE MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES of SOCIETY]; A --> D[SS and SA used to crush opponents through violence]; C --> E[Many Ex-soldiers, young people attracted by uniforms of SA and SS]; C --> F[BUILD UP STRENGTH OF NAZI PARTY];
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Make Party Look
STRONG and
DISCIPLINED

**ATTRACT MORE MEMBERS
FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES
of SOCIETY**

Many Ex-soldiers, young
people attracted by
uniforms of SA and SS

**BUILD UP
STRENGTH OF
NAZI PARTY**

**SS and SA used to
crush opponents
through violence**

BUILD UP PROPAGANDA

**Used this to target German
GRIEVANCES**

made Jews scapegoats

stir up people's emotions

**built up hatred and fear
of Communism**

**Gave impression of
strength and order NAZI
party would bring**

Comm

- ◎ -- "The streets of Germany are filled with rioting and looting. Communism has taken control of Russia and the German Republic is in a state of chaos without it. We cannot survive without it. We must get rid of it."
- ◎ EC: What control of Germany?
- ◎ Get rid of Germany?

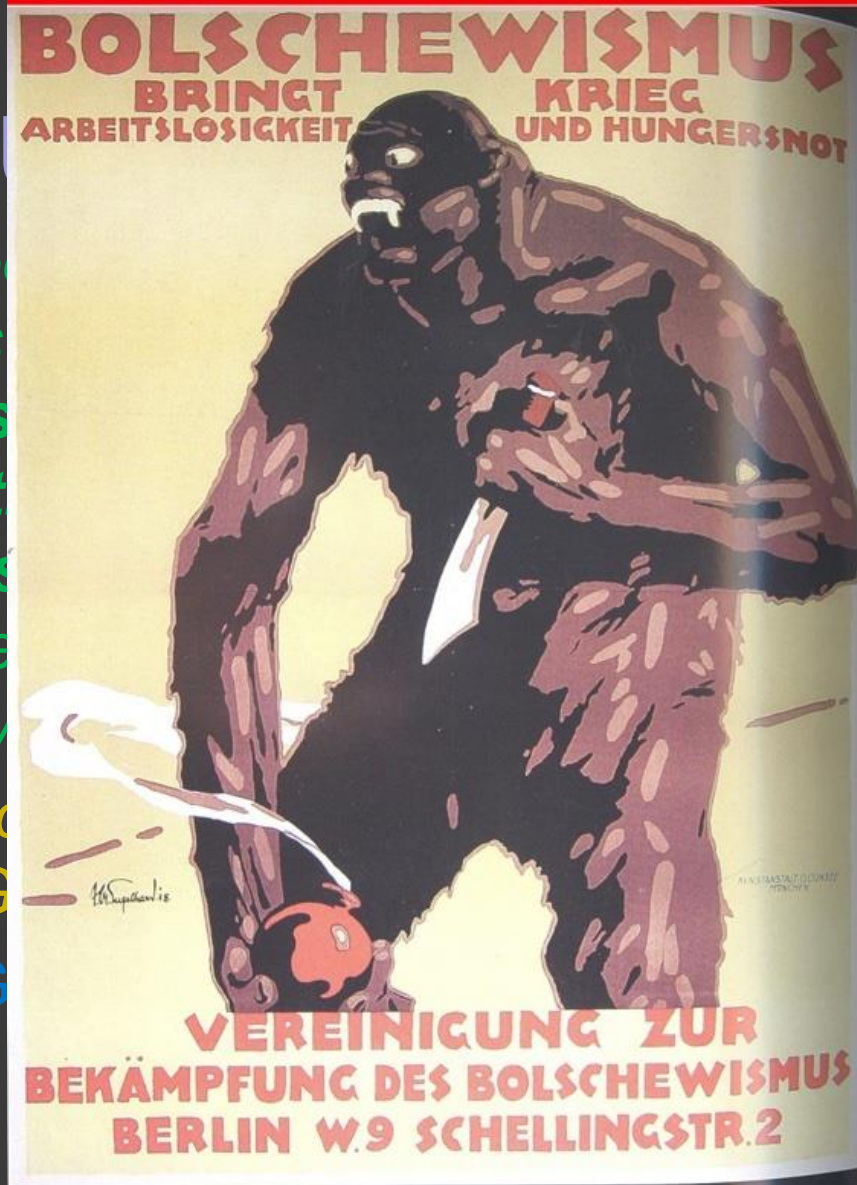


Plate 8. "Bolshevism Brings War, Unemployment, and Starvation," 1918. An early poster by the "Association to Fight Bolshevism," one of the many loose and ephemeral right-wing groups. Typically Bolshevism is depicted with caricatured bestial features that are also meant to be associated with Africans. Poster Collection, GE 1858A, Hoover Institution Archives.

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Communism and Jews



German people about WW I and Germany in the 1920s.

The “International Jewish Conspiracy”

- ◎ -- *“(when I was younger) I was not in agreement with the sharp anti-Semitic tone, but from time to time I read arguments which gave me some food for thought.*
 - *At all events, these occasions slowly made me acquainted with the man and the movement, which in those days guided Vienna's destinies: **Dr. Karl Lueger and the Christian Social Party.** “*
 - *What did Hitler mean?*
 - *He, like all youth, was naïve about Jews, even liked them, but he saw wisdom from Social-*

The “Irish

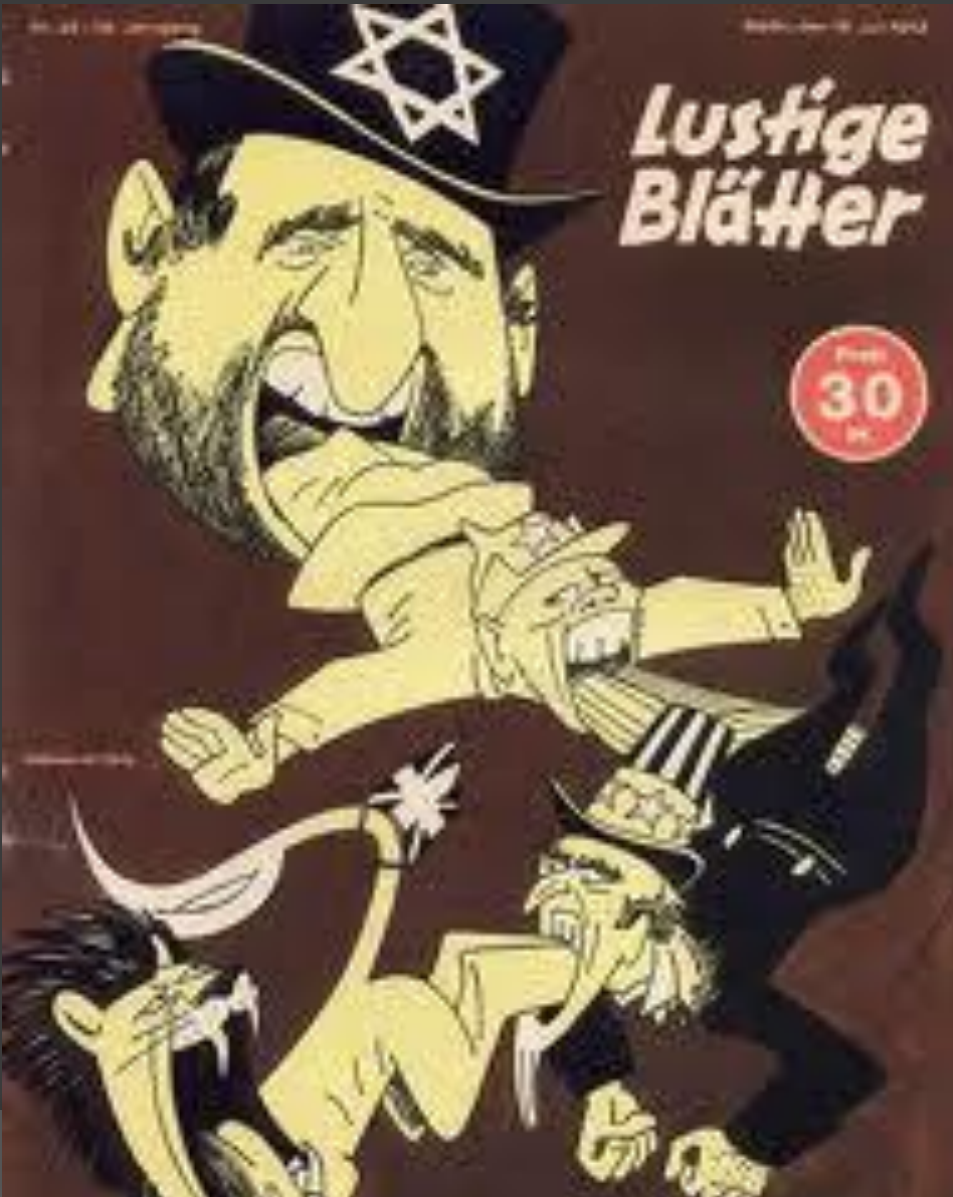


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The “International Jewish Conspiracy”



BUILD UP PROPGANDA

**Used TECHNOLOGY
to PUBLICISE their
MESSAGE**

**ORGANISED
RALLIES and
PROCESSIONS**

**Hitler very good at
speaking - appealed
to emotions of
people
gave them what they
wanted
built own image as a
'superman'-the
STRONG LEADER
who will SAVE
GERMANY**

**Used Films,
radio
broadcasts,
posters**

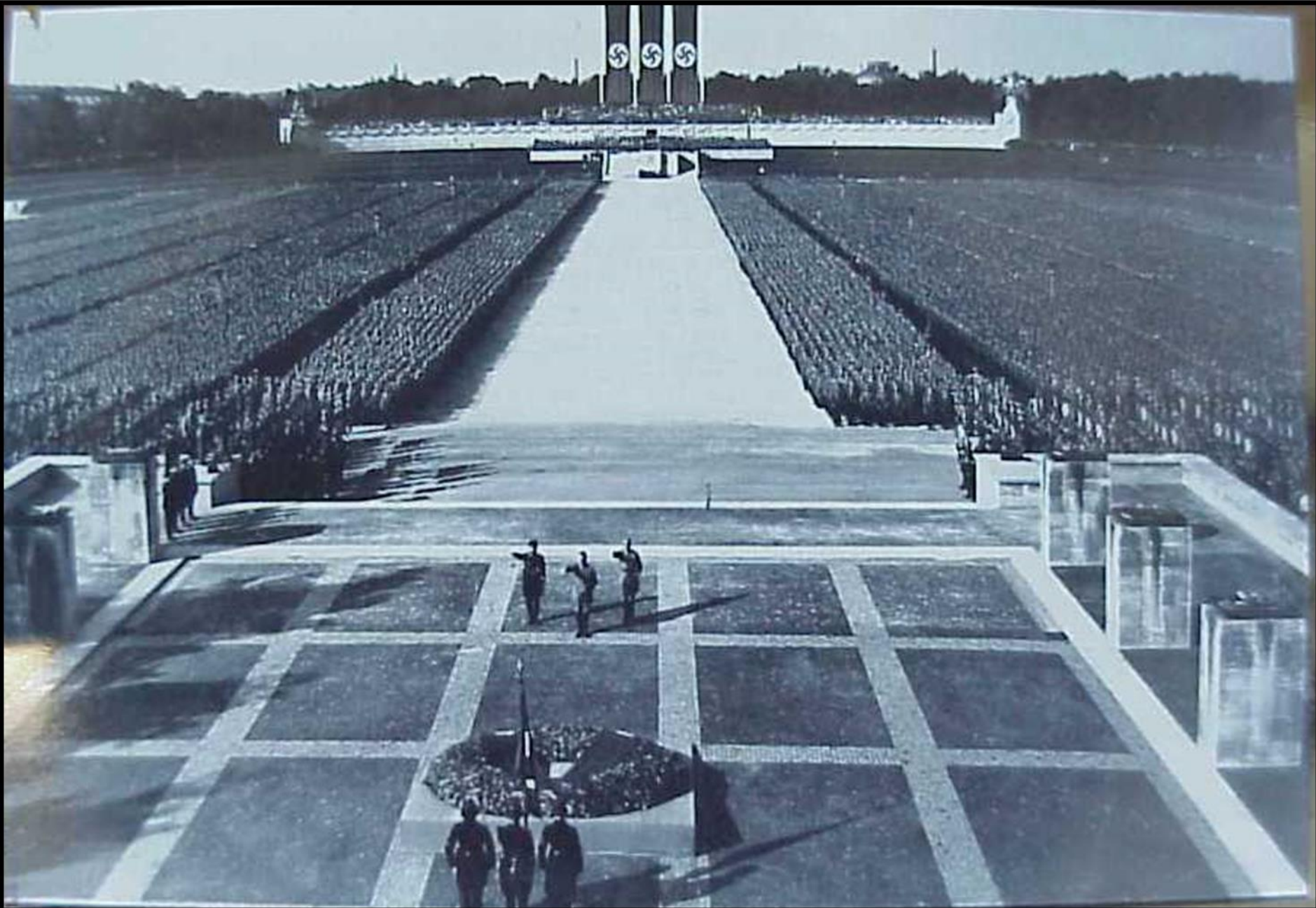
**Carried NAZI
messages into every
town and home in
Germany**

Goebbels and Riefenstahl



Goebbels was the Chief Propaganda Officer. He promoted radios. By 1942, Germany had 23 million radios

Leni Riefenstahl was Hitler's filmmaker. "Triumph of Will" and "Olympiad"







NAZI DECLINE 1923-28

- NAZI PARTY **lost popularity** during this period because Stresemann took over as Chancellor and later Foreign Minister
- Made deals
- People **did not support extremist party** - **Stresemann solved economic problems** of hyperinflation and Ruhr Crisis - rebuilt German economy with loans from USA - **economic stability and prosperity so people were happy with Weimar Govt**
- **1923 Munich Putsch by Hitler was a failure** - people did not support him - **even army and police supported WR and helped crushed the rebellion**
- **Hitler was arrested** and imprisoned - **NAZI PARTY BANNED**

BUILD UP SUPPORT FROM ALL CLASSES

Hitler's ideas appealed to all Classes = gave them what they wanted

Increased Anti-Semitic (JEW) propaganda

BUSINESSMEN and MIDDLE-CLASS feared communism and wanted ORDER

Used SA and SS to CRUSH Communist meetings and beat them up

Appealed to working class

Wanted JOBS - promised to end Unemployment

Show Nazis could DEAL with Communist threat

BUILD UP SUPPORT FROM ALL CLASSES

Hitler's ideas appealed to all Classes = gave them what they wanted

RIGHT-WING wanted re-armament and strong Germany

TEARING UP VERSAILLES TREATY

Promises to Farmers to Improve earnings and better quality of life

PROMISE TO RESTORE ARMED FORCES

EX-Soldiers attracted by MILITARISTIC IMAGES

However, in the Reichstag elections of **1928**, **less than 3% voted for Nazis.**

- ⦿ 5 years later (**1933**) - NAZIS were **BIGGEST PARTY in REICHSTAG** and **HITLER** made **CHANCELLOR**
- ⦿ How did this happen? **WHAT FACTORS** helped NAZIS and HITLER?

HINDENBURG MADE MISTAKE:

Hitler did NOT WIN PRESIDENTIAL elections 1932

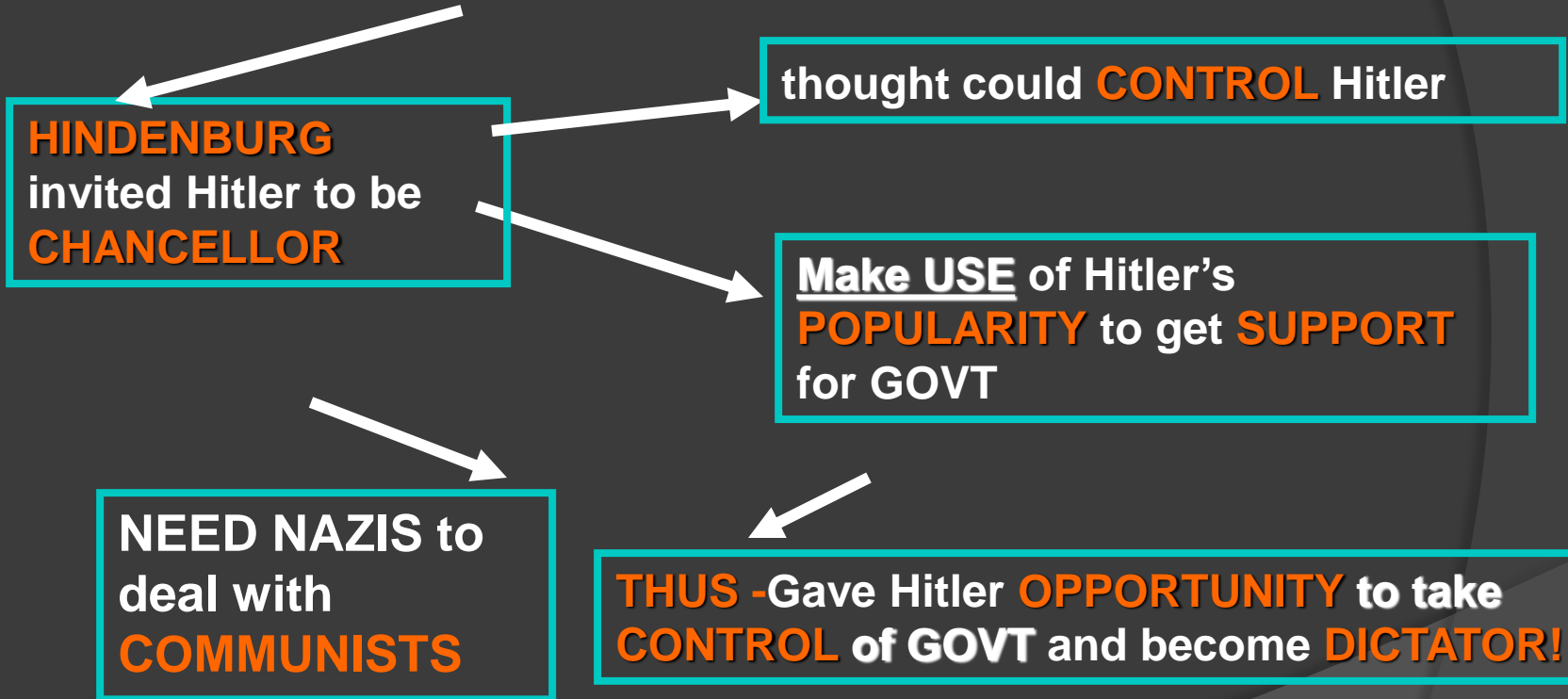
HINDENBURG invited Hitler to be CHANCELLOR

thought could CONTROL Hitler

Make USE of Hitler's POPULARITY to get SUPPORT for GOVT

NEED NAZIS to deal with COMMUNISTS

THUS -Gave Hitler OPPORTUNITY to take CONTROL of GOVT and become DICTATOR!



1929–1933

- ❑ Wall Street Crash of 1929
- ❑ Weimar Republic collapsed as did most governments in the era (either by election or force)
- ❑ Unemployment
- ❑ Extreme parties – right and left – gain support Communist & NSDAP(Fascist)
- ❑ Government becomes more divided and less effective
- ❑ Nazi Party grew more powerful
- ❑ In 1933, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor

- How will the American Stock Market Crash affect Germany



1932 Election and Nazi take Power



Fragmented Politics 1932

KDP Communist Party	SPD (Social Democratic Party)	Centre:	NSDAP (NAZI PARTY)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-End Weimar-gov ran by workers-More benefits and wages for workers-End support for religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Keep Weimar-redistribution of wealth-Against Treaty of Versailles-reduce military spending	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Christian Democrats-Improve military-Less taxes on Business-Protect Catholic Church rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-End Weimar-Rebuild Military-Unify all German Speaking Lands-Reject Versailles-Nationalist

The Nazi Party's Rise to Power: 1928-1933

- 1928 - Hitler's Nazi Party was **a small, insignificant party-** had little success in elections
- By 1933 however Hitler was the **chancellor of Germany.**
- The Nazi's had **risen from obscurity to power, total power.**



The Great Depression

- The Great Depression began in 1929. Unemployment skyrocketed and people lost their homes, farms, and investments. Even those with jobs had to take pay cuts.
- People now began to listen to the Nazis. There were plenty of disillusioned people in every social class.
- Hitler promised financial aid for farmers, jobs for factory workers, a better future for professionals, and anti-communist programs for the rich.
- Membership in the Nazi party exploded from 27,000 in 1928 to 178,000 by 1930. In September a new Reichstag election was held and the Nazis exceeded even Hitler's



How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

The GD created **atmosphere of fear and desperation**

DUE TO political and economic crisis created by GD

Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the worldwide economic crisis
- USA **withdrew its loans** to Germany

- plunged Germany into **debts and bankruptcy again** - struggled with repaying reparations - **increasing unemployment** grew to **6million** in 1932

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?



THUS - gave Hitler and Nazis the opportunity to gain popularity

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

Weimar government introduced policies
- unpopular and ineffective

increased taxes and lowered
unemployment benefits in
order to cut government
spending

Resulted in -
collapse of the
coalition
government as the
parties disagreed
about how to handle
the economic
problems

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

President Hindenburg used **Article 48 to rule by decree and bypassed the Reichstag**

dissolved the Reichstag in 1929 and another election was called

THUS gave opportunity for **Nazis to enter the Reichstag as the second largest party in 1930.**

NAZIS ENTERED GOVT LEGALLY - ELECTED

WHY did the Germans VOTE for Nazis?

Economic crisis in 1929 - increased in support and popularity of the Nazis and Hitler : 2 REASONS

1) loss of faith in WR - angry with govt and looking for someone to blame

German people were desperate and supported extremists parties and ideas -appeal of HITLER'S ideas to hungry and unemployed Germans

Reichstag Elections 1928 - Nazis had 12 seats in the Reichstag

1930 - rose to 107 and in 1932 to almost 200 - the Nazis became the largest party in Reichstag.

2) Communists also growing **STRONGER** in 1930

Frightened the ordinary Germans, especially rich businessmen and farmers /landowners

WHY?

STATE CONTROL of all land/businesses - they will lose their wealth and property

Only **NAZIS (SS and SA)** able to **DEAL with THREAT** of Communists

got **MORE VOTES** from people afraid of Communists

got **financial backing** from businessmen

THUS, GD gave **NAZIS CHANCE** and they **USED** it to their advantage.

Propaganda portrayed Hitler as '**MAN of the Moment**' -Solutions to **ALL Problems**

NAZI IDEAS SIMPLE and **APPEALED** to **EVERYONE**

HITLER - wonderful speaker - people felt he **UNDERSTOOD** them

promised **jobs** to the **workers** and **land and food** to the **farmers**

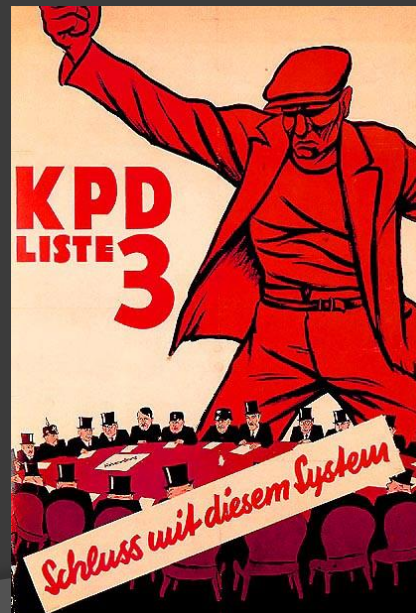
Found **SCAPEGOATS** to **BLAME**

ATTACKED Weimar Govt for signing **Versailles**, Communists for wanting to **take over govt** and **Jews** for **Germany's problems**

Reichstag Election of 1928 vs. 1930

	Communis ts	Social Democrats *	Democrats *	Center Party*	German Peoples Party*	Nationalists	Nazis
1928	54	153	25	78	45	73	12
1930	77	143	20	87	30	41	107

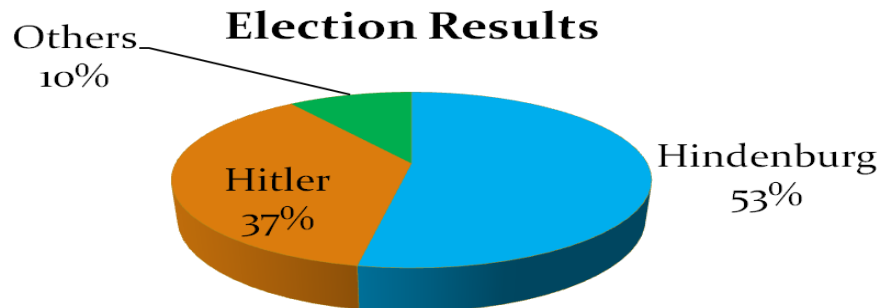
2. What do you think this party did to raise its own popularity? Take a look at the poster to the right. Who did they blame for the bad economic times?



* = Democratic Parties

Presidential Election of 1932

- Despite being 85 years old President Paul Von Hindenburg was persuaded to run for a second term. He was the only person who could beat Hitler.
- Hitler went on a huge campaign trail that was dubbed “Hitler over Germany”, visiting many cities and making speeches to crowds as high as 120,000.
- Despite the effort Hindenburg still won. A majority of Germans were still unwilling to vote for the Nazis.



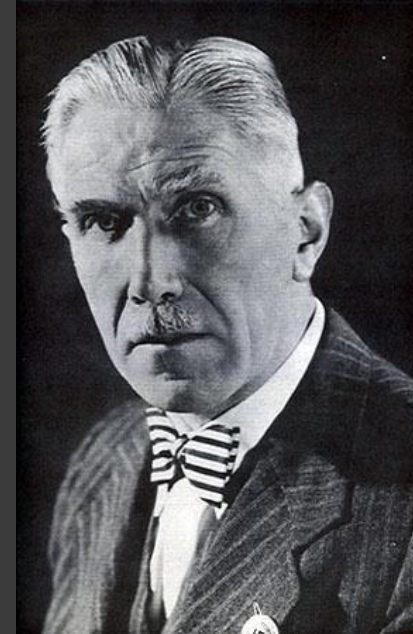
- 1. Are the campaign promises of Hitler and the reasons why people voted for him different from American elections today? Explain your answer.
- 2. Did you notice how anti-Semitism was NOT part of Hitler's election promises, or on the minds of the 7 voters we analyzed? Do you think Germans would have seen him any differently had he spoke of violent hatred of Jews or even the Holocaust?

Twilight of the Weimar Republic

- ◎ “Any system can stand in fair weather: It is tested when the wind blows”
 - How does the following quote relate to the Weimar Republic?
 - What winds were attacking the Weimar Republic?

How Hitler becomes the Leader of Germany

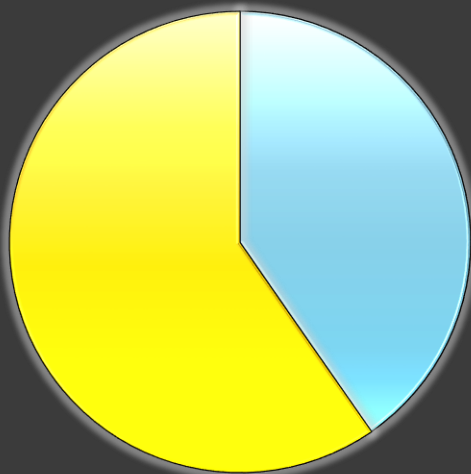
- President Hindenburg knew the greatest threat to the government was Hitler, and did everything he could to control the Nazis growing power.
- In June of 1932 Hindenburg appointed a man named Franz Von Papen to be the new Chancellor of Germany.
- Von Papen thought it was a good idea to call for a new election, where he thought the democratic parties would gain a majority. This would show Hitler most Germans were against him.
- Von Papen had good intentions but had little support among the major political parties and the German people. As a result his plan was a complete disaster and he only lasted 5 months as chancellor.



The Election of 1932

	Communist s	Social Democrats *	Democrats *	Center Party*	German Peoples Party*	Nationalists	Nazis
1930	77	143	20	87	30	41	107
1932	89	133	4	97	7	37	230

Election Results by Ideology



- Democratic Parties
- Authoritarian Parties

Although Von Papen was correct that a majority of Germans did not support Hitler, the election did show a majority no longer believed in democracy.

- Hindenburg named Kurt Von Schleicher, his longtime friend and influential aid as the next chancellor.
- Schleicher believed he could divide the Nazi party and put an end to Hitler.
- Greggor Strasser was a high ranking Nazi who differed from Hitler on core objectives, so he was asked by Schleicher to become Vice-Chancellor. If his plan worked, Schleicher would have divided the Nazi Party and greatly weaken Hitler.
- Upon hearing that Strasser was going to accept the job, Hitler flew into a rage and forced him to resign.
- Very quickly everyone realized that Schleicher's policies were not going to work either.



Greggor Strasser (right) next to Hitler.

- Hindenburg met with Hitler and proposed leading a new government with Hitler as Chancellor...thinking Hitler could be controlled.



- Hindenburg knew that a stable government could never happen without Nazi support, January 30, 1933, Hitler became chancellor. The Third Reich was born

- Hitler's First Step was to establish a dictatorship and wipe out all other political parties.



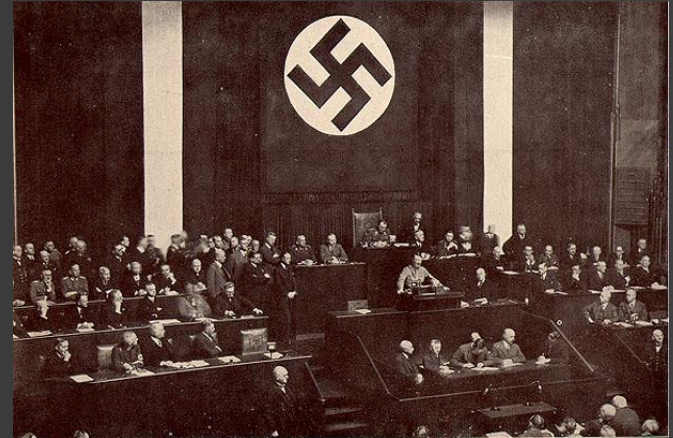
Hitler Destroys Democracy and becomes Dictator

- In February 1933 the Reichstag building burned down.
- A Dutch communist was arrested and charged with the crime. Seizing the opportunity, Hitler lashed out at Communists and had all of its members in the Reichstag arrested.
- He also arrested more than 27,000 of his political opponents.
- To house all the prisoners the Nazis created the concentration camps. The first camp, Dachau, opened near Munich a month later.



The Enabling Act

- In order to support his “war against communism” Hitler demanded broad dictatorial powers in the form of a law called the Enabling Act.
- The Enabling Act allowed laws to be passed without consent of the Reichstag, allow Hitler to make any change to the constitution, and the right for Hitler to suspend all civil liberties.
- The Nazis intimidated the other political parties into supporting the Act. They even arrested all the Communist members of the Reichstag and sent them to concentration camps. Despite this, all the members of the Social Democrat party voted against the bill.
- By July 1933 The Nazis were able to abolish all rival political parties. Hitler was also able to replace most of the non-Nazi members of his cabinet with loyal Nazis.
- By this time Hindenburg was the only man who could have put an end to Hitler’s rule. He did nothing, mainly because of increased senility and the influence of his own son Oskar, who was a Nazi.



The SA ("Brown Shirts")



- They bullied opponents into obeying the Nazi Party
- However, once Hitler rose to power, he had the SA replaced by a new organization – the SS

The SS ("Black Shirts")



- The SS were Hitler's private bodyguards and were led by Heinrich Himmler
- They arrested and killed anyone who challenged Hitler
- The SS took over law enforcement in Germany and implemented the 'Final Solution'

The Downfall of the SA

- The SA grew rapidly because they gave the unemployed a purpose and a sense of self-respect.
- Street fighting with communists and other political armed groups became common. The SA intentionally would start large brawls at opposition rallies and even drop mice and snakes down women's dresses to cause confusion.
- In addition they would pull fire alarms and send death threats to thousands of people, even Nazis who disagreed with them.
Membership soared to more than 3 Million by 1932.



Don't forget! The Germany army was only 100,000 men. Would the SA become the new official German army? This worried the generals intensively.

- There were also very serious problems with the SA. Many of its members took the “Socialist” part of the party name seriously and wanted a socialist revolution in Germany.



- They also wanted to replace the German army with the SA. These were two things Hitler had no intention of doing. He needed the army to fight future wars, and he needed the rich industrialists to supply and fund his army.

- One time the SA even went on strike, and Joseph Goebbels had to get police protection. Only after Hitler made a tearful speech to them did they return to work.

- Once in power Hitler had to choose between the SA and the army, he chose the latter.



Fact: The SA became so uncontrollable and fanatical that some of its members even plotted to kill Hitler for “going against the philosophy of the party”.

The Night of Long Knives

- Hitler needed to show the Army and the industrialists that the SA would not pose any threat to them.
- On June 30, 1934, in what became known as the Night of Long Knives, Hitler had many SA leaders arrested and shot, effectively eliminating any threat to Hitler's power.
- **Ernst Rohm** was shot by the SS after refusing to take his own life. From this point on, the SA will play no major role in Nazi Germany and will be totally overshadowed by the SS.
- Hitler also took the opportunity to eliminate others including former chancellor Kurt Von Schleicher and Gustav Von Khar, the former ruler of Bavaria who betrayed him during the Beer Hall Putsch.
- On August 2, 1934 Hindenburg died and Hitler combined the office of Chancellor and President together, becoming the sole ruler of Germany.



Fact: Hitler got the idea to combine Chancellor and President together by looking at the dual roles of President of the United States.

Questions for Review

- 1. As a result of the Reichstag Fire what did Hitler do?
- 2. What was the Enabling Act? What provisions did it carry to help Hitler dominate Germany?
- 3. What type of activities did the SA do?
- 4. Who was Horst Wessel? How did he impact Nazi Society?
- 5. Name 2 main problems Hitler had with the SA. What groups saw the SA as a threat?
- 6. What happened during the Night of Long Knives?

The Enabling Act Activity

- ① 1. Create at least 3 Thesis Idea Points from the Articles in the law.
- ② 2. What does “Reich Cabinet” refer to?
- ③ 3. Read Article 3 carefully, what do you think the Reichsgesetzblatt is?
- ④ 4. What do you think probably happened on April 1, 1937? According to the law Hitler would no longer have these powers after that date.
- ⑤

The Enabling Act

“The Law to Remedy the Distress of the People and the Reich”

Article 1. National laws can be enacted by the Reich Cabinet as well as in accordance with the procedure established in the Constitution. This also applies to the laws referred to in Article 85, Paragraph 2, and in Article 87 of the Constitution.

Article 2. The national laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet may deviate from the Constitution as long as they do not affect the position of the Reichstag. The powers of the President remain undisturbed.

Article 3. The national laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet shall be prepared by the Chancellor and published in the Reichsgesetzblatt. They come into effect, unless otherwise specified, the day after their publication. Articles 68-77 of the Constitution do not apply to the laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet.

Article 4. Treaties of the Reich with foreign states which concern matters of national legislation do not require the consent of the bodies participating in legislation. The Reich Cabinet is empowered to issue the necessary provisions for the implementation of these treaties.

Article 5. This law becomes effective on the day of its publication. It becomes invalid on April 1, 1937; it also becomes invalid if the present Reich Cabinet is replaced by another.

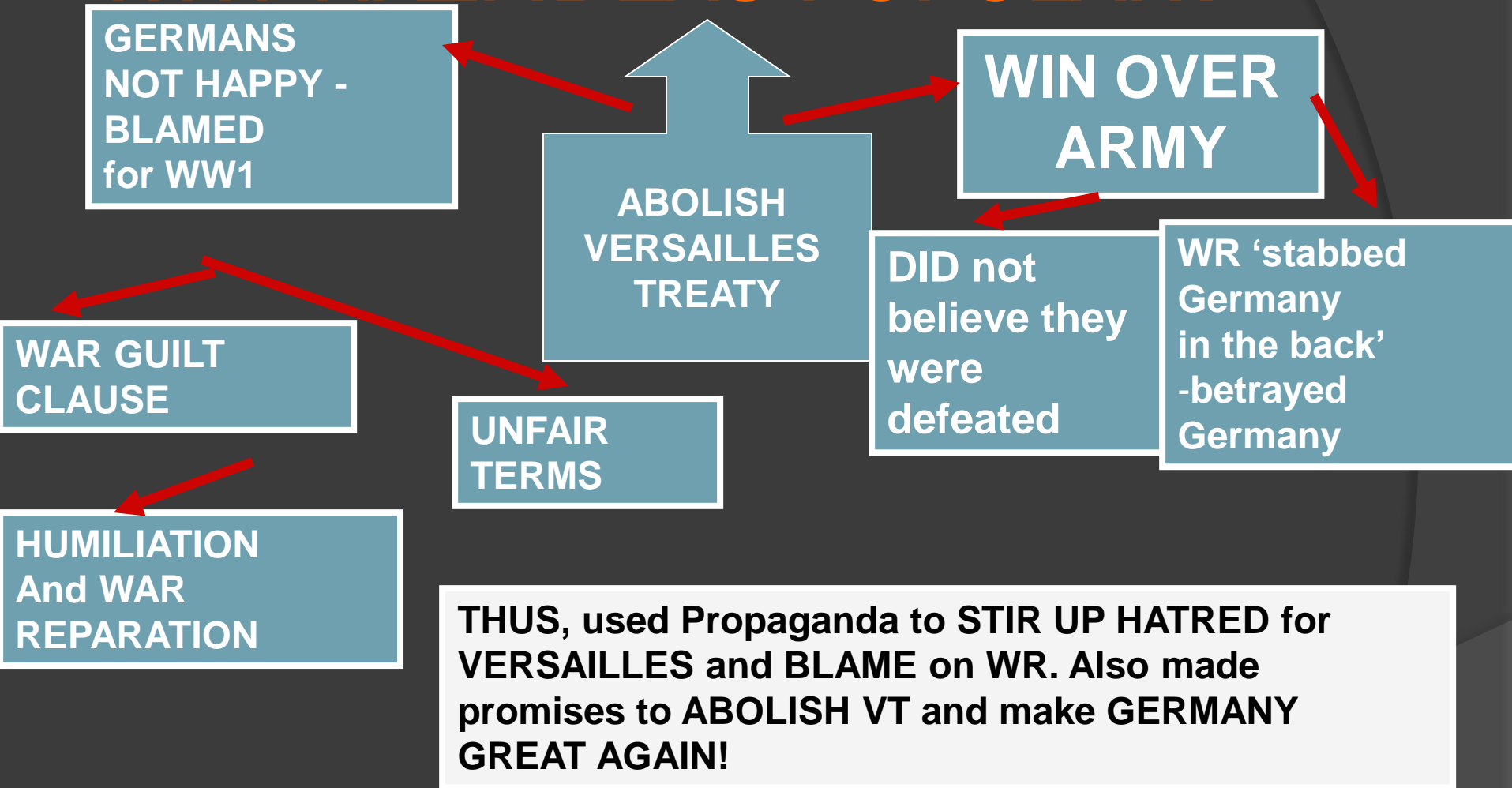
Review Questions

- 1. Who defeated Hitler for President in 1932?
- 2. How did Franz Von Papen attempt to control Hitler? Why didn't it work?
- 3. How did Von Schleicher attempt to put an end to Hitler? Why did his plan not work either?
- 4. Why did Hindenburg finally agree to make Hitler chancellor.

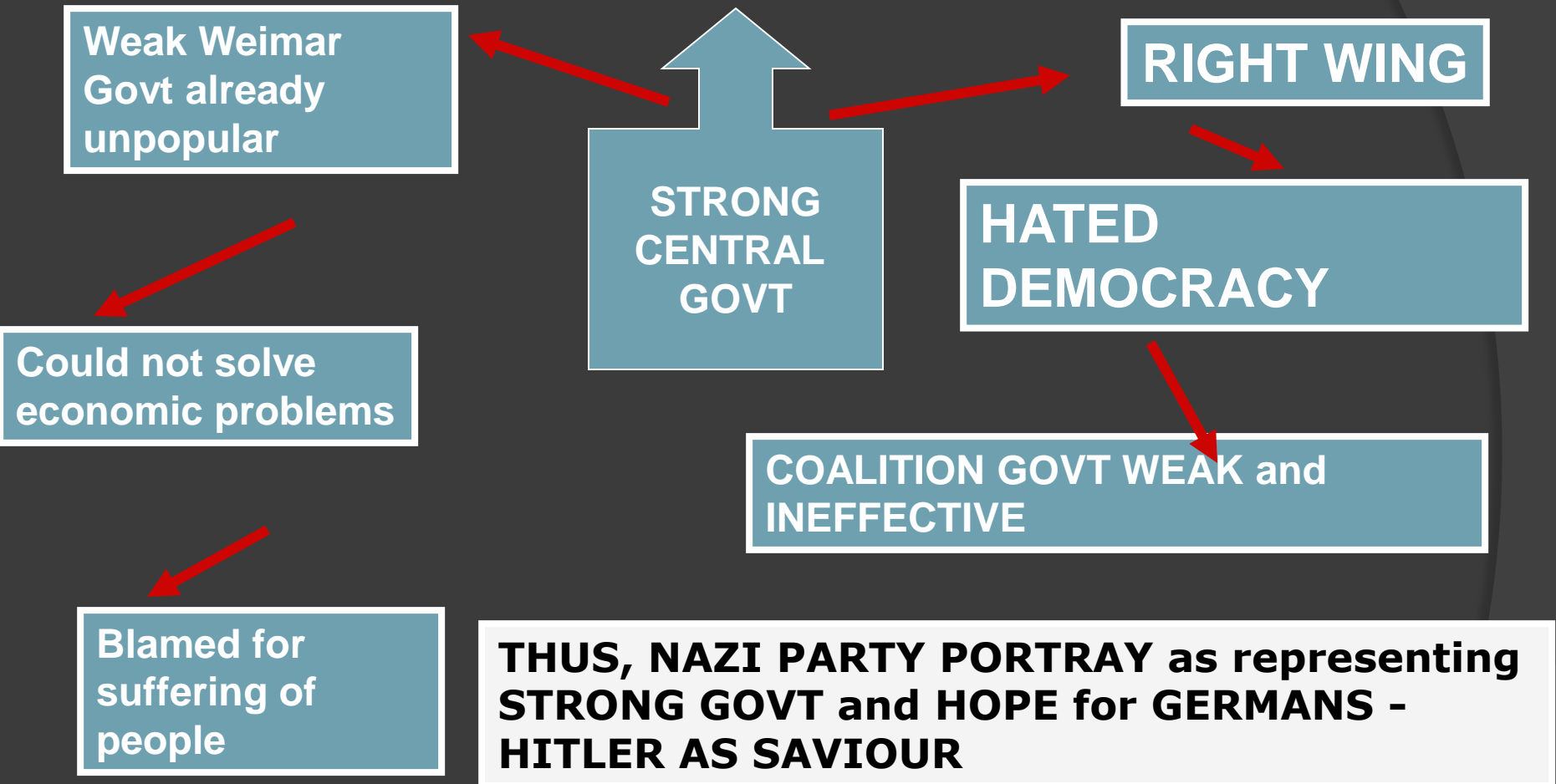
What Did The Nazi Stand For in 1920s?



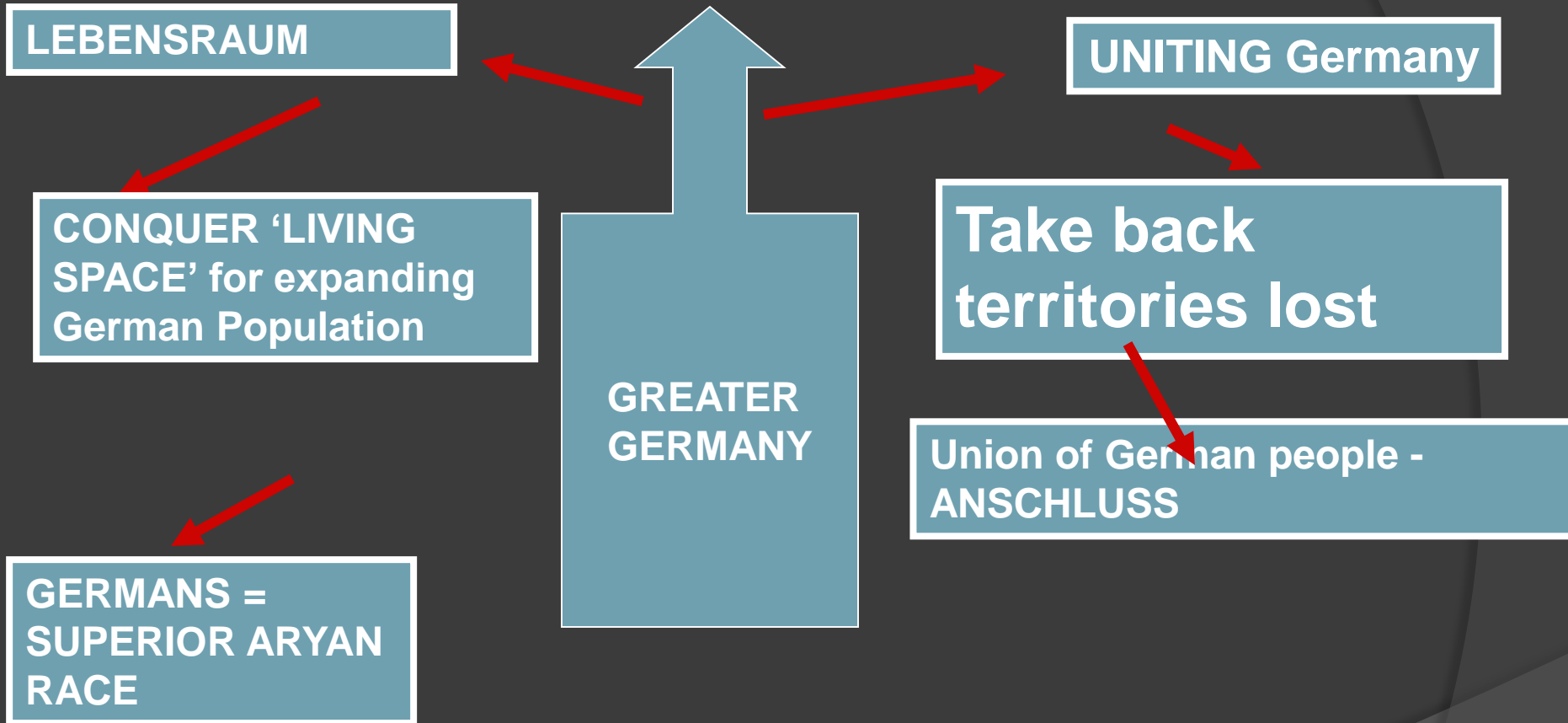
WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?



THUS, popular with NATIONALISTS (RIGHT WING) who wanted a strong and united GERMAN EMPIRE- promised to rearm to make Germany strong again

WHY NAZI IDEAS POPULAR?

**JEWS made
SCAPEGOATS**

Communists

**GET RID OF
JEWS and
COMMUNISTS**

**Blamed for ALL OF
Germany's problems**

**Feared by rich
businessman and middle-
class**

**Create disorder - strikes by workers and
wanted classless society**

**Humiliation of VT,
HYPERINFLATION,
UNEMPLOYMENT**

**THUS, NAZIS ideas popular because Germans
looking for someone to blame for problems**

How Did Hitler REBUILD POPULARITY of NAZI PARTY?

REORGANISED PARTY

**HITLER as Führer
(SUPREME LEADER)**

**Adopted outstretched
arm as salute**

**SET UP BRANCHES
OF PARTY**

**TOTAL OBEDIENCE
TO LEADER**

**SA and SS - smart
uniforms and discipline -
even better organised than
police - gave image of
order and discipline which
people wanted**

**SET UP PARA-
MILITARY
Organisations (SA,
SS, Hitler Youth)**

**Designed NAZI Flag
with SWASTIKA -
RED, White and
Black**

WHY REORGANISED PARTY

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graph TD; A[WHY REORGANISED PARTY] --> B[Make Party Look STRONG and DISCIPLINED]; A --> C[ATTRACT MORE MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES of SOCIETY]; A --> D[SS and SA used to crush opponents through violence]; C --> E[Many Ex-soldiers, young people attracted by uniforms of SA and SS]; C --> F[BUILD UP STRENGTH OF NAZI PARTY];
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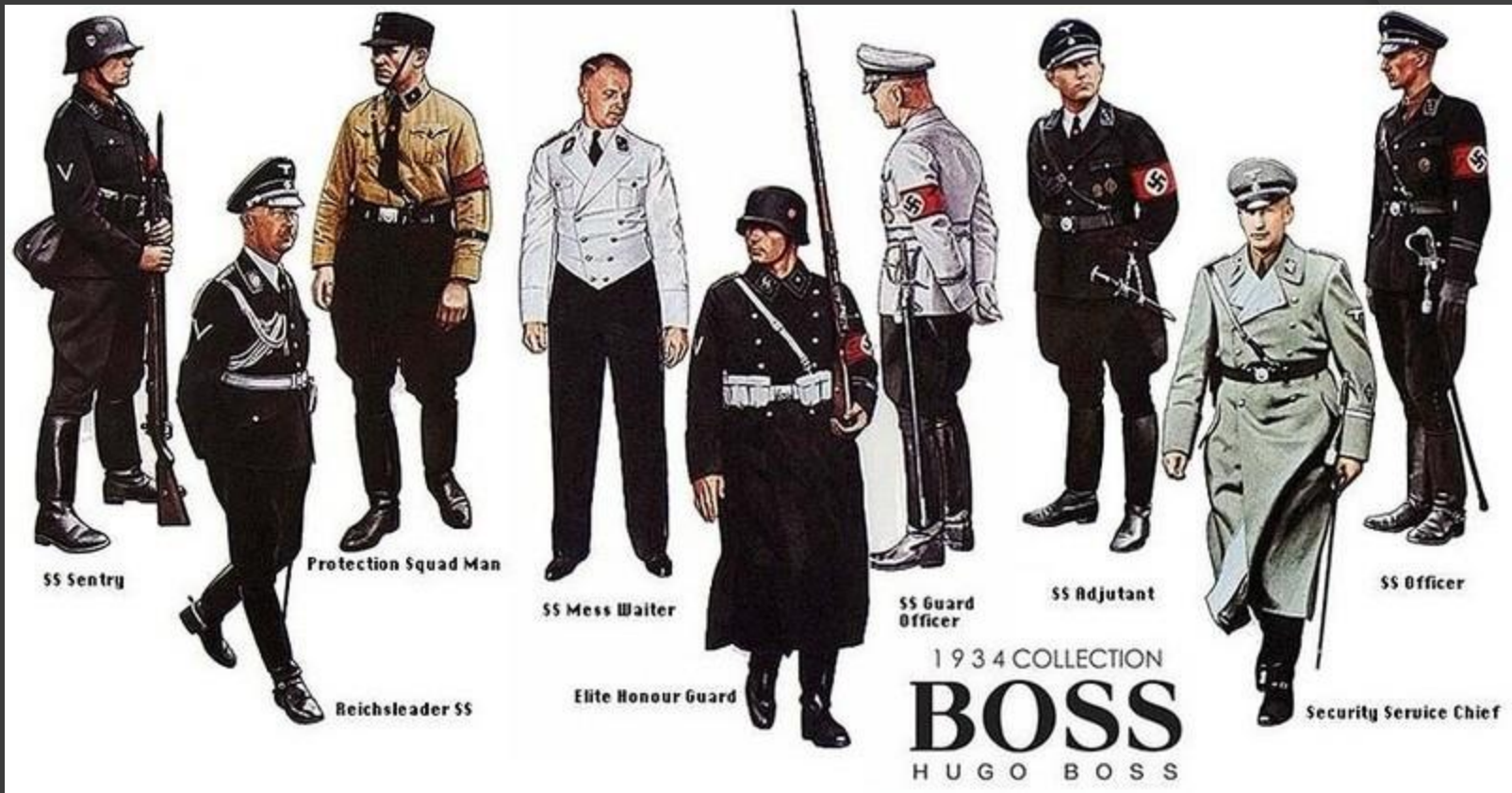
Make Party Look
STRONG and
DISCIPLINED

**ATTRACT MORE MEMBERS
FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES
of SOCIETY**

Many Ex-soldiers, young
people attracted by
uniforms of SA and SS

**BUILD UP
STRENGTH OF
NAZI PARTY**

**SS and SA used to
crush opponents
through violence**



“The company said it had become aware of the dealings with the Nazis after the name of its founder, Hugo Boss, who died in 1948, appeared on a list of dormant accounts released by Swiss bankers last month.” NYTIMES 1997

BUILD UP PROPAGANDA

**Used this to target German
GRIEVANCES**

made Jews scapegoats

stir up people's emotions

**built up hatred and fear
of Communism**

**Gave impression of
strength and order NAZI
party would bring**

- -- "The streets
universities
Communist
Russia is the
Republic is
without. We
cannot survive
- EC: What a
control of Germany
- Get rid of Germany



The
and rioting.
country.
and the
within and
our nation

en he takes

Russia

Plate 8. "Bolshevism Brings War, Unemployment, and Starvation," 1918. An early poster by the "Association to Fight Bolshevism," one of the many loose and ephemeral right-wing groups. Typically Bolshevism is depicted with caricatured bestial features that are also meant to be associated with Africans. Poster Collection, GE 1858A, Hoover Institution Archives.

Communism and Jews



The “International Jewish Conspiracy”

- --“*(when I was younger) I was not in agreement with the sharp anti-Semitic tone, but from time to time I read arguments which gave me some food for thought.*
 - *At all events, these occasions slowly made me acquainted with the man and the movement, which in those days guided Vienna's destinies: **Dr. Karl Lueger and the Christian Social Party.** “*
 - *What did Hitler mean?*
 - *He, like all youth, was naïve about Jews, even liked them, but he saw wisdom from Social-Darwinists like Dr. Karl Lueger.*

The



conspiracy”

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The “International Jewish Conspiracy”



BUILD UP PROPGANDA

**Used TECHNOLOGY
to PUBLICISE their
MESSAGE**

**ORGANISED
RALLIES and
PROCESSIONS**

**Used Films,
radio
broadcasts,
posters**

**Carried NAZI
messages into every
town and home in
Germany**

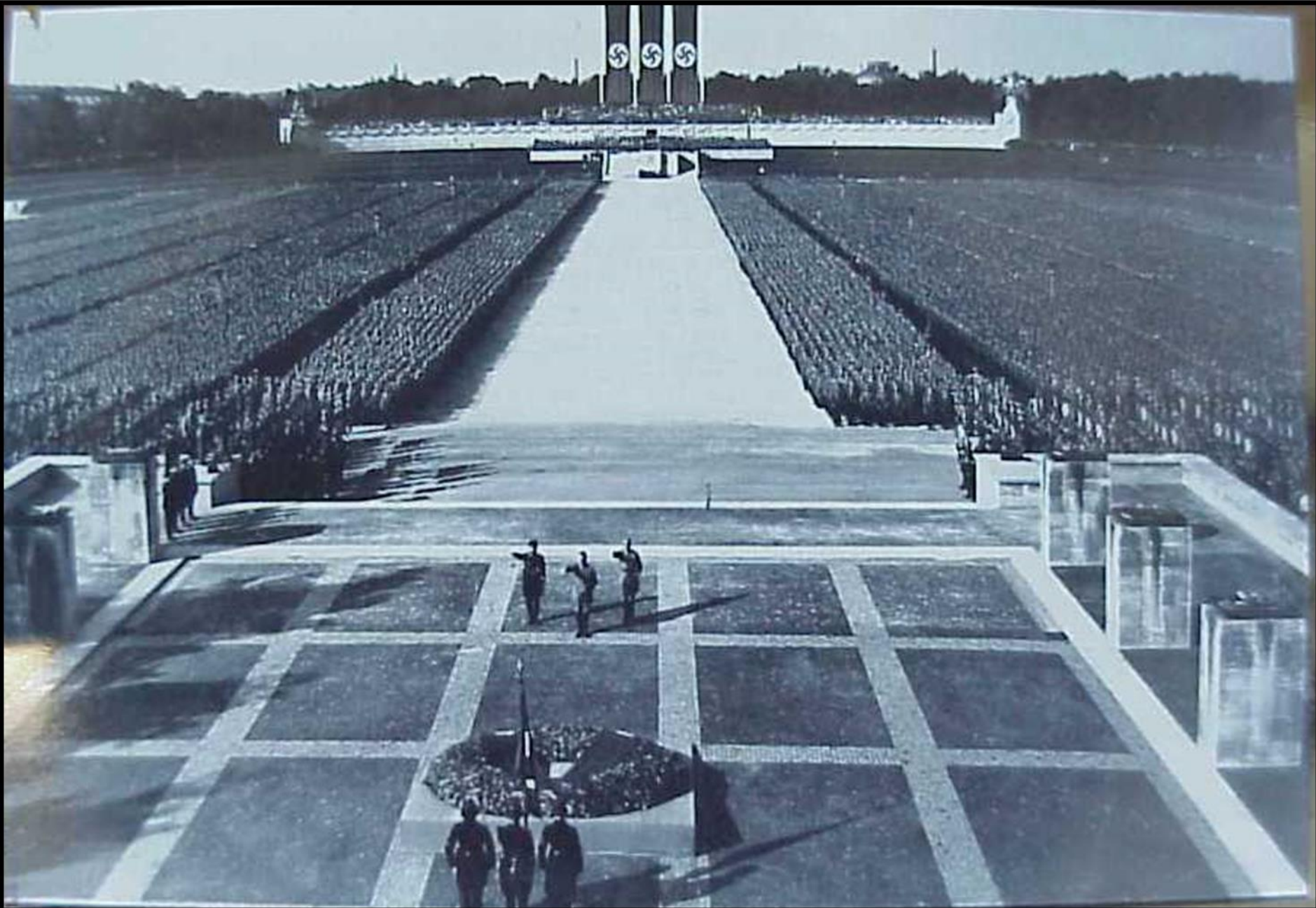
**Hitler very good at
speaking - appealed
to emotions of
people
gave them what they
wanted
built own image as a
'superman'-the
STRONG LEADER
who will SAVE
GERMANY**

Goebbels and Riefenstahl



Goebbels was the Chief Propaganda Officer. He promoted radios. By 1942, Germany had 23 million radios

Leni Riefenstahl was Hitler's filmmaker. "Triumph of Will" and "Olympiad"







The Nazi Party's Rise to Power: 1928-1933

- 1928 - Hitler's Nazi Party was **a small, insignificant party-** had little success in elections
- By 1933 however Hitler was the **chancellor of Germany.**
- The Nazi's had **risen from obscurity to power, total power.**



BUILD UP SUPPORT FROM ALL CLASSES

Hitler's ideas appealed to all Classes = gave them what they wanted

Increased Anti-Semitic (JEW) propaganda

BUSINESSMEN and MIDDLE-CLASS feared communism and wanted ORDER

Used SA and SS to CRUSH Communist meetings and beat them up

Appealed to working class

Wanted JOBS - promised to end Unemployment

Show Nazis could DEAL with Communist threat

BUILD UP SUPPORT FROM ALL CLASSES

Hitler's ideas appealed to all Classes = gave them what they wanted

RIGHT-WING wanted re-armament and strong Germany

TEARING UP VERSAILLES TREATY

Promises to Farmers to Improve earnings and better quality of life

PROMISE TO RESTORE ARMED FORCES

EX-Soldiers attracted by MILITARISTIC IMAGES

However, in the Reichstag elections of **1928**, **less than 3% voted for Nazis.**

- ① 5 years later (**1933**) - NAZIS were **BIGGEST PARTY in REICHSTAG** and **HITLER** made **CHANCELLOR**
- ① How did this happen? **WHAT FACTORS** helped NAZIS and HITLER?

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

The GD created **atmosphere of fear and desperation**

DUE TO political and economic crisis created by GD

Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the worldwide economic crisis
- USA **withdrew its loans** to Germany

- plunged Germany into **debts and bankruptcy again** - struggled with repaying reparations - **increasing unemployment** grew to **6million** in 1932

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?



THUS - gave Hitler and Nazis the opportunity to gain popularity

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

Weimar government introduced policies
- unpopular and ineffective

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graph TD; A[Weimar government introduced policies - unpopular and ineffective] --> B[increased taxes and lowered unemployment benefits in order to cut government spending]; B --> C[Resulted in - collapse of the coalition government as the parties disagreed about how to handle the economic problems];
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increased taxes and lowered unemployment benefits in order to cut government spending

Resulted in - collapse of the coalition government as the parties disagreed about how to handle the economic problems

How Great Depression Gave Hitler Opportunity to Rise to power?

President Hindenburg used **Article 48 to rule by decree and bypassed the Reichstag**

dissolved the Reichstag in 1929 and another election was called

THUS gave opportunity for **Nazis to enter the Reichstag as the second largest party in 1930.**

NAZIS ENTERED GOVT LEGALLY - ELECTED

WHY did the Germans VOTE for Nazis?

Economic crisis in 1929 - increased in support and popularity of the Nazis and Hitler : 2 REASONS

1) loss of faith in WR - angry with govt and looking for someone to blame

German people were desperate and supported extremists parties and ideas -appeal of HITLER'S ideas to hungry and unemployed Germans

Reichstag Elections 1928 - Nazis had 12 seats in the Reichstag

1930 - rose to 107 and in 1932 to almost 200 - the Nazis became the largest party in Reichstag.

2) Communists also growing **STRONGER** in 1930

Frightened the ordinary Germans, especially rich businessmen and farmers /landowners

WHY?

STATE CONTROL of all land/businesses - they will lose their wealth and property

Only **NAZIS (SS and SA)** able to **DEAL with THREAT** of Communists

got **MORE VOTES** from people afraid of Communists

got **financial backing** from businessmen

THUS, GD gave **NAZIS CHANCE** and they **USED** it to their advantage.

Propaganda portrayed Hitler as '**MAN of the Moment**' -Solutions to **ALL Problems**

NAZI IDEAS SIMPLE and **APPEALED** to **EVERYONE**

HITLER - wonderful speaker - people felt he **UNDERSTOOD** them

promised **jobs** to the **workers** and **land and food** to the **farmers**

Found **SCAPEGOATS** to **BLAME**

ATTACKED Weimar Govt for signing **Versailles**, Communists for wanting to **take over govt** and **Jews** for **Germany's problems**

HINDENBURG MADE MISTAKE:

Hitler did NOT WIN PRESIDENTIAL elections 1932

HINDENBURG invited Hitler to be CHANCELLOR

thought could CONTROL Hitler

Make USE of Hitler's POPULARITY to get SUPPORT for GOVT

NEED NAZIS to deal with COMMUNISTS

THUS -Gave Hitler OPPORTUNITY to take CONTROL of GOVT and become DICTATOR!

Hitler and the Reichstag

- The Nazis gradually turned the increase in popularity into a stronger political presence
- In 1930 the Nazis' gained the second most seats in the Reichstag, 107 out of 647 seats, the Nazis use disruptive tactics to prevent things from being accomplished
- 1932, first election sees the Nazis elect 230 seats, the most of any party
- Hitler is denied Chancellorship by President Hindenburg, who fearing the Nazis turns to a coalition government

- The coalition fails and another election is held, the Nazis elect 198 seats
- Hindenberg makes a fatal error, thinking that the popularity of the Nazis is waning asks Hitler

to serve as
Chancellor,
hoping the
Nazis will
eliminate
the communis
threat



Hitler Becomes Dictator

- Frustrated by his lack of majority Hitler calls another election for February 1933
- The would be dictator, required a majority to pass laws which would allow him absolute control over Germany
- The Brownshirts were unleashed on the population of Germany and the opposition in particular

This is an election poster from the 1933 campaign.

“The Reich will never be destroyed if we are united and loyal”



- Another election poster
From 1933.
It reads

‘In the deepest
need Hindenburg
Chose Adolf Hitler as
Chancellor. You too
Should vote for list 1’



- ⦿ German peoples lost the freedom of the press and freedom of speech during this election
- ⦿ Hitler used the attempt to burn the Reichstag by a communist as an excuse to convince the Reichstag to pass legislation known as the Enabling Acts



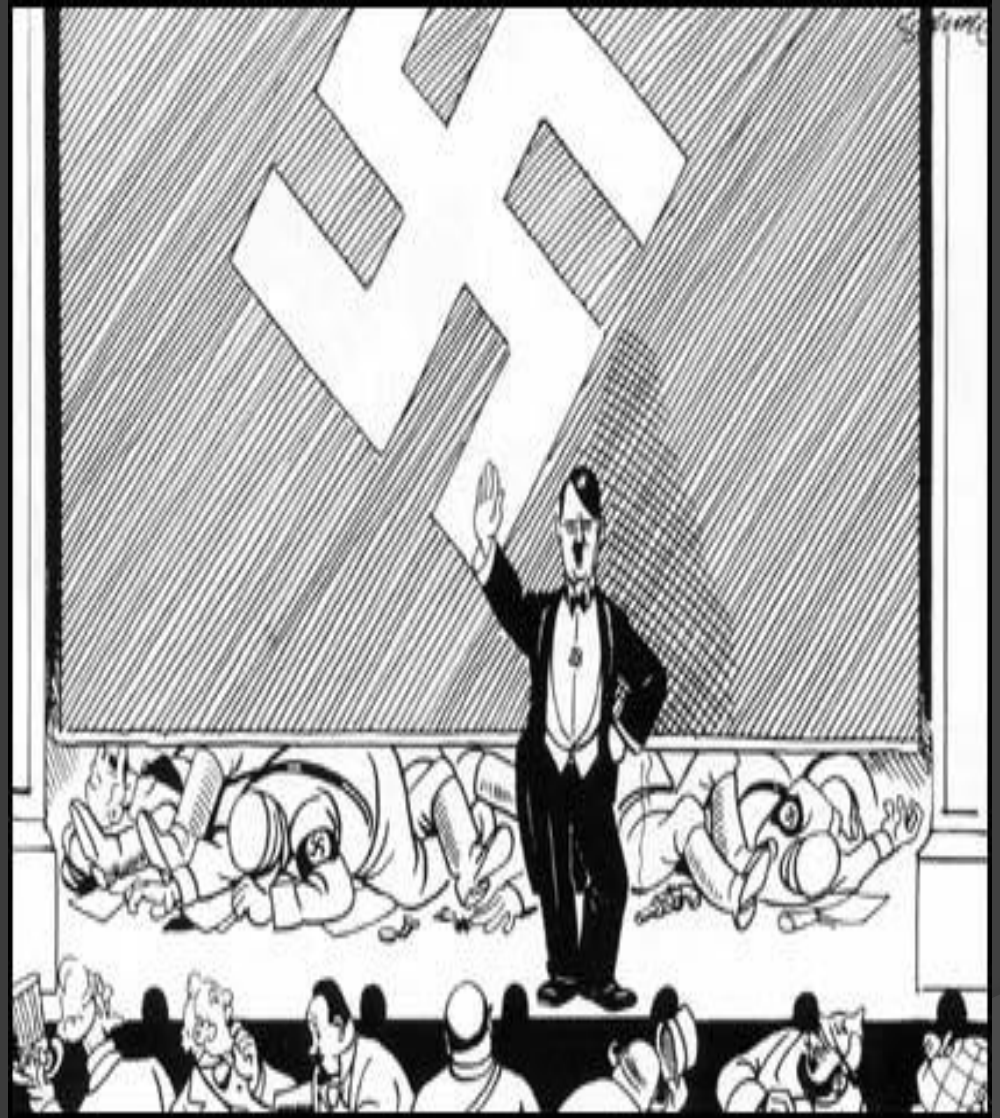
- The Enabling Act gave Hitler the power to deal with the 'emergency'. It gave him the ability to pass laws without them having to pass through the Reichstag
- In spite of the heavy propaganda and the controversy surrounding the communists the Nazis still only elected 288 seats
- To create a majority he imprisoned the communist members, preventing them from voting
- July 1933 Hitler outlaws all other political parties

- ① **Night of the Long Knives** – June 1934- Hitler eliminates all internal challenges to his leadership using the **Schutzstaffel (S.S.)**
- ① Hitler eliminates most of the leadership of the Brownshirts as they pose a threat to him, S.S. replaces them as his main muscle
- ① One month later Hindenburg dies and Hitler is elected President, in addition to remaining as chancellor
- ① This removes his last remaining check on his power in Germany



- Political cartoon that read “they all salute with two hands now.” July 1934

- Another Cartoon which read “will the crowd all please remain in their seats”



Nazi Germany: the Totalitarian State

- ⦿ Hitler targeted the youth of Germany
- ⦿ He created the Hitler youth for all Germans under the age of eighteen
- ⦿ Hitler also changed the education system to suit the needs of the Nazi party
- ⦿ He also created the **Gestapo**, the ruthless secret police



- ⦿ Concentration camps opened for all those that spoke out against Hitler, as well as those who did not fit in Hitler's society
- ⦿ **Nuremberg Laws** were a series of laws passed between 1933-38 which stripped Jewish citizens of almost all rights and revoked their rights as citizens
- ⦿ Prohibited mixed race marriages and relationships
- ⦿ Limited names that Jewish children could be given

**NUREMBERG LAWS ON REICH CITIZENSHIP,
SEPTEMBER 15, 1935**

**Reich Citizenship Law
September 15, 1935**

The Reichstag has unanimously enacted the following law, which is promulgated herewith:

§ 1

- 1) A subject of the State is a person who enjoys the protection of the German Reich and who in consequence has specific obligations towards it.
- 2) The status of subject of the State is acquired in accordance with the provisions of the Reich and State Citizenship Law.

§ 2

- 1) A Reich citizen is a subject of the State who is of German or related blood, who proves by his conduct that he is willing and fit faithfully to serve the German people and Reich.
- 2) Reich citizenship is acquired through the granting of a Reich Citizenship Certificate.
- 3) The Reich citizen is the sole bearer of full political rights in accordance with the Law.

§ 3

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in coordination with the Deputy of the Führer, will issue the Legal and Administrative orders required to implement and complete this Law.

Nuremberg, September 15, 1935
at the Reich Party Congress of Freedom

The Führer and Reich Chancellor
Adolf Hitler
The Reich Minister of the Interior
Frick

- 1936 Summer Olympics were held in Berlin
- The rest of the world was unsure of what to expect from Hitler's Germany
- Hitler was on his best behavior as they removed much of the propaganda and toned down the anti-Semitism



- Hitler hoped the Aryan race would dominate the Olympics but they were dominated by a black man from Ohio, Jesse Owens, won four gold medals much to the Führer's dismay



- On November 9, 1938 an exiled Jewish citizen killed a German diplomat
- Hitler used this as an excuse to take serious actions against the Jews in Germany
- **Kristallnacht** – Night of Broken Glass, the Nazi's attacked Jewish shops, schools, and homes

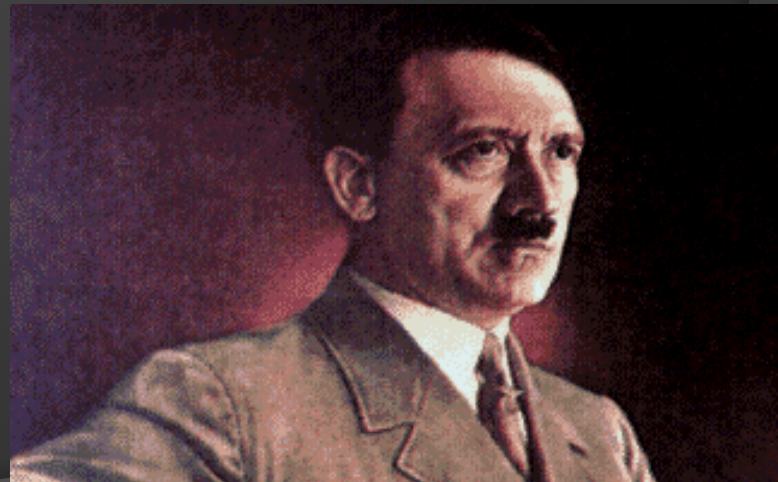


- ⦿ This is the beginning of a more aggressive policy regarding the Jews that eventually leads to the Holocaust
- ⦿ Hitler is in total control, the army has been rebuilt and Hitler is ready to put his plans in motion to take over Europe



HITLER'S ECONOMIC POLICY

How Hitler Transformed the German Economy



Hitler's economic priorities

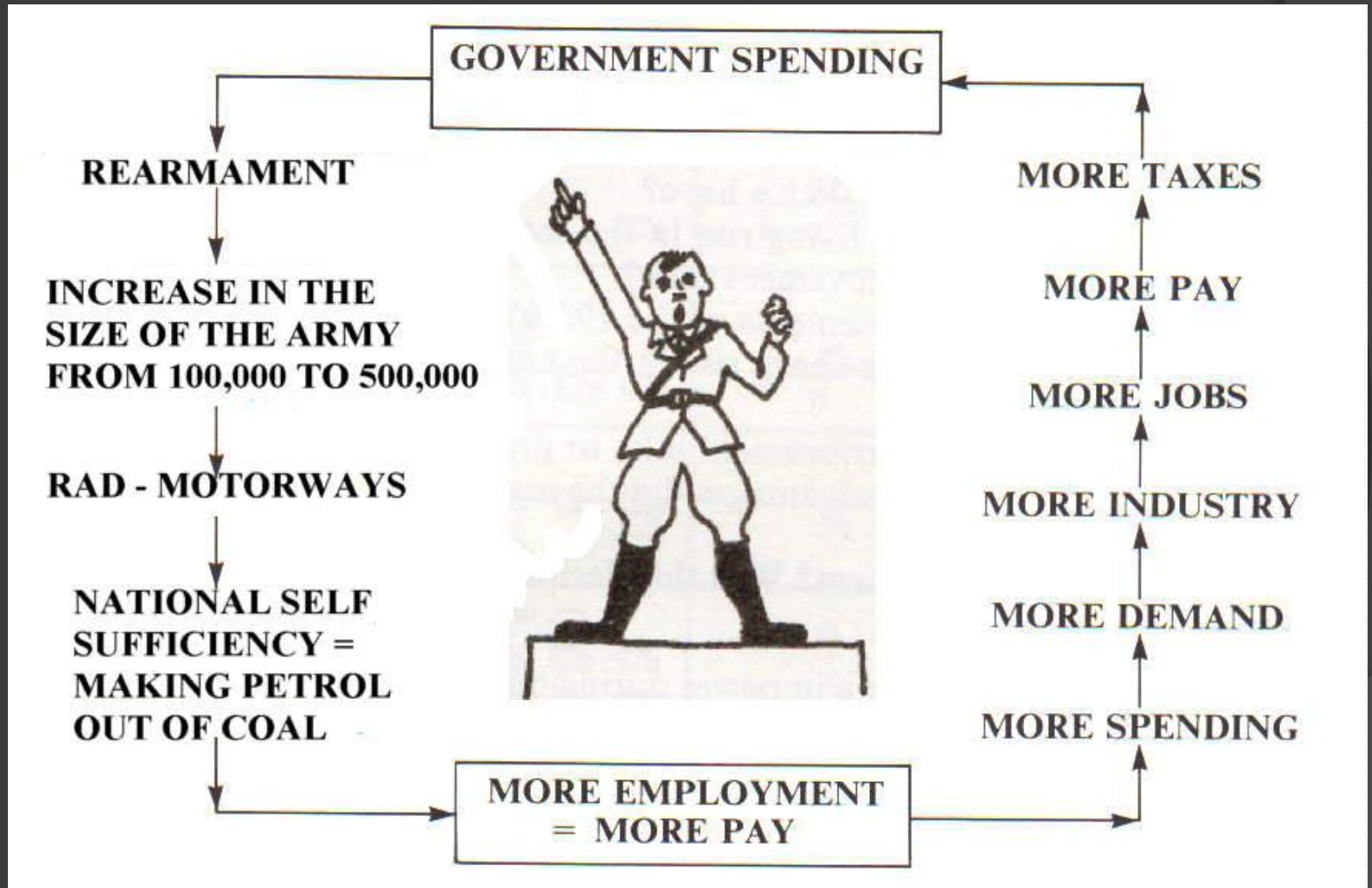
- ① 1. Drag Germany out of the world recession
- ② 2. Do what he had promised; solve unemployment problems in Germany.
- ③ 3. Make Germany self-sufficient.
- ④ 4. Give the jobs taken by the Jews to the 'Aryans' instead. (As in Mein Kampf and 25 points)
- ⑤ 5. Make the economy focus mainly on war and rearmament. Some car factories were closed and used to build fire arms for his regime.

Unemployment

- During the election campaigns Hitler had promised to solve unemployment as 6 million Germans were out of a job. This was only one of his aims but also it gave him a opportunity to make an impact. He intended to do this by creating new jobs and opening new lines of work.



How did Hitler put Germany back to work?



RAD – The National Labour Service

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM ROOSEVELT



- Gave men jobs in public work schemes
- Men in RAD had to wear a uniform & live in camps.
- They were given free meals and pocket money.
- Built: drainage ditches, schools, a new network of motorways and planted new forests.

To improve the living conditions of the German people

Kick start the Cycle of Prosperity

What was the aim of Hitler's Public Works Programme?

To build impressive buildings so that the German people would feel proud

To improve the public transport network for industrial & military use

Autarky – National Self Sufficiency

- Hitler wanted to Germany a strong independent country that was sufficient in food and materials.
- Germany had lost the FWW because it had run out of food and war materials.
- German scientist developed all sorts of artificial substitutes such as petrol from coal and coffee from acorns.
- These new substitutes were made in Germany and gave the unemployed jobs in new industries.
- Hitler also encouraged the growth of the car industry.

The Car Industry

VOLKSWAGEN = PEOPLES CAR



- Designed by Porsche and nicknamed 'The Peoples Car', known today as the?

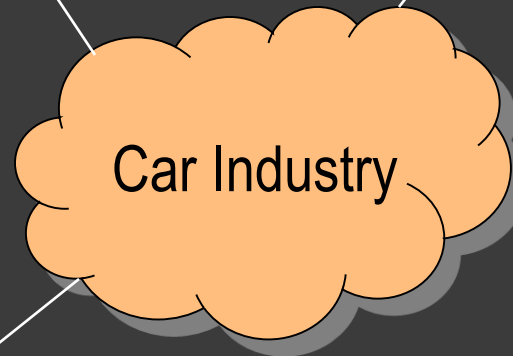
The Car Industry



Recognise the design of this German Jeep called a Kubelwagen?

Produced low cost cars which helped to keep the German people happy

Created Jobs in other industries because of the need for standardised parts.



Steel

Glass

Rubber

Leather

Car Production could easily be switched to the production of military vehicles

Cycle of Prosperity

What other measures did Hitler introduce in order to reduce unemployment?

- By 1934 all Jews were sacked from civil service jobs which were then given to German workers.
- Unemployed Jews were not registered.
- Women lost their jobs which were given to men.
- People who refused jobs offered by the labour service were arrested and put into concentration camps.

Hitler's Ideas

- ⦿ German economy can be converted into a war machine
- ⦿ Germany must rearm quickly, conquer countries by Blitzkrieg or lightning war, takeover their economies and move on
- ⦿ Conquered countries would give the master race "Lebensraum"
- ⦿ By exploiting conquered countries living standards could be maintained at home despite all the money being spent on war
- ⦿ In 1936 Goering was appointed to introduce a 4 year plan to put Hitler's ideas into action

The aims of the 4 year Plan

- ◉ Prepare Germany for war by rearming.
- ◉ Make it so that Germany could provide itself its own raw materials by developing home grown substitutes.

In 1933 total money spent on the military was 1.9 million marks by 1939 it was 32.3 million!



What were the results of this?

- ⦿ The German army's size grew by a vast amount and farms had been made to supply them.
- ⦿ Hitler became more confident and started to openly break the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.



Austria
1938

Czechoslovakia
1938

Poland 1939

World war broke out!

Was the 4 year Plan a success?

- Unemployment dropped quickly from 4.8 million in 1933 to 0.5 million in 1938, he managed to give people jobs by getting them to help in the rearmament of Germany. This gave people jobs but at the same time helped Hitler with his regime.
- Working hours went up to 49 hours per week in 1939 – 52 hours in 1943 to over 60 hours per week by 1945
- Trade unions were replaced by “Beauty of Labour” and strength Through Joy” who organised better conditions and leisure activities.