

## Germany in Transition, 1919-39

### The Nazi rise to power and the end of the Weimar Republic

#### The early Nazi Party

Point	Content
No.1	The union of all Germans to form a Greater Germany
No.2	The scrapping of the Treaty of Versailles
No.4	Citizenship of the state to be granted only to people of German blood. Therefore no Jew was to be a citizen of the nation.
No.6	The right to vote in elections to be allowed on to German citizens.
No.7	Foreign nationals to be deported if it became impossible to feed the entire population.
No.8	All non-Germans who had entered the country after 1914 to leave.
No.13	The government to nationalise all businesses that had been formed into corporations.
No.14	The government to profit-share in major industries
No.17	An end to all speculation in land and any land needed for communal purposes would be seized. There would be no compensation.
No.23	All newspaper editors and contributors to be German, and non-German papers to appear only with permission of the government.
No.24	Religious freedom for all- providing the views expressed did not threaten or offend German people.
No.25	The creation of a strong central government for the Reich to put the new programme into effect.

**Task:** Use five colours to categorise the points above. Highlight the point depending on the category it covers: *Treaty of Versailles, race, religion, civil rights and industry*

#### MUNICH PUTSCH

**Who?** Adolf Hitler, Nazi Party, von Kahr, von Lossow and von Seisser

**Where?** Munich, Bavaria, Germany

**When?** 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 1923


**Why?** Wanted to overthrow the Weimar government and start a Nazi dictatorship- also wanted to increase his fame

**Events-** Hitler and 600 Nazis seized a beer-hall where von Kahr, von Lossow and von Seisser were holding a meeting. Hitler explained his plan to them and asked for their support, whilst holding them at gunpoint. He promised he had the support of General Ludendorff.

**End-** von Kahr, von Lossow and von Seisser were allowed to leave the beer-hall and when they left they told the army Hitler's plans. Hitler continued with his plans and started to march through Munich, but was met by the army- 16 Nazis met them and 4 police were killed. Hitler was arrested two days later and the Nazi party was banned.

**Hitler's trial-** Hitler was arrested and tried for treason along with General Ludendorff. The trial gave Hitler nationwide publicity and got him on the front of many German newspapers. He claimed he was 'not guilty' and that he was acting in the best interests of Germany. He used his trial as an opportunity to talk about the Treaty of Versailles, the November Criminals and the Jews.

**Task:** Read through the outcomes of the Munich Putsch and decide whether they show it to be a success or failure for Hitler and the Nazis.

The putsch had not been properly planned. Kahr was allowed to leave the beer hall, and the following day he withdrew his support. The German government responded quickly. They ordered the army to crush the revolt. When armed Nazis marched to a military base in Munich they were met by police and soldiers.	Whilst Hitler was in prison, the Nazi party fell apart without their leader. However, he was able to write his infamous book 'Mein Kampf' which was read by millions of Germans following his release.	Throughout his time in jail and during the trial, Hitler was often shown in the newspapers, both locally and nationally. This brought the Nazi party a lot of much-needed publicity. The day he was released, thousands came to hear him speak.	The Nazi Party lost 16 members during the Putsch and Hitler himself was shot. Later, however, the Nazi members lost in this event were used as martyrs for their cause against the government. A monument was made to commemorate their efforts.
In jail, Hitler had time to reflect on his actions and realised that the only way to come to power was legally. He hatched a plan of how he was going to gain support through legal means when he was released.	Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison, but only served nine months of his sentence. His visitors nick-named his wing 'The General's Hill' and he was able to receive visitors when he liked. He lived in comfortable surroundings and was able to have contact with the outside world.	After his time in jail, popularity for the Nazi party seemed initially very positive. Many people came to hear Hitler speak on his release. However, throughout the years following, 1924-8, the Nazi party decreased in popularity and numbers. It was not until the devastation of the Wall Street Crash that they gained the support they needed.	

**Task:** Complete the gap fill below to find out how Hitler used the Wall Street Crash to gain popularity.

### The impact of the Depression

Hitler had tried to win the votes of people living in urban areas, but now he wanted to target \_\_\_\_\_ voters too. This came at a time when farmers were beginning to experience \_\_\_\_\_ problems and found Nazism attractive.

The Nazi Party only had 27,000 members in \_\_\_\_\_, but by the end of 1928 membership was more than \_\_\_\_\_. Hitler had been successful in targeting all classes, but only won \_\_\_\_\_ seats in the Reichstag elections (1928) when he had 32 seats in 1924. Hitler made further changes in the late 1920s, he made \_\_\_\_\_ Party Propaganda Leader.

The \_\_\_\_\_ in 1929 created an economic crisis in Germany and unemployment started to \_\_\_\_\_. Hitler and the Nazis were in power only \_\_\_\_\_ years after the crash.

economic

100,000

rural

Wall Street Crash

1925

12

rise

Joseph Goebbels

Four

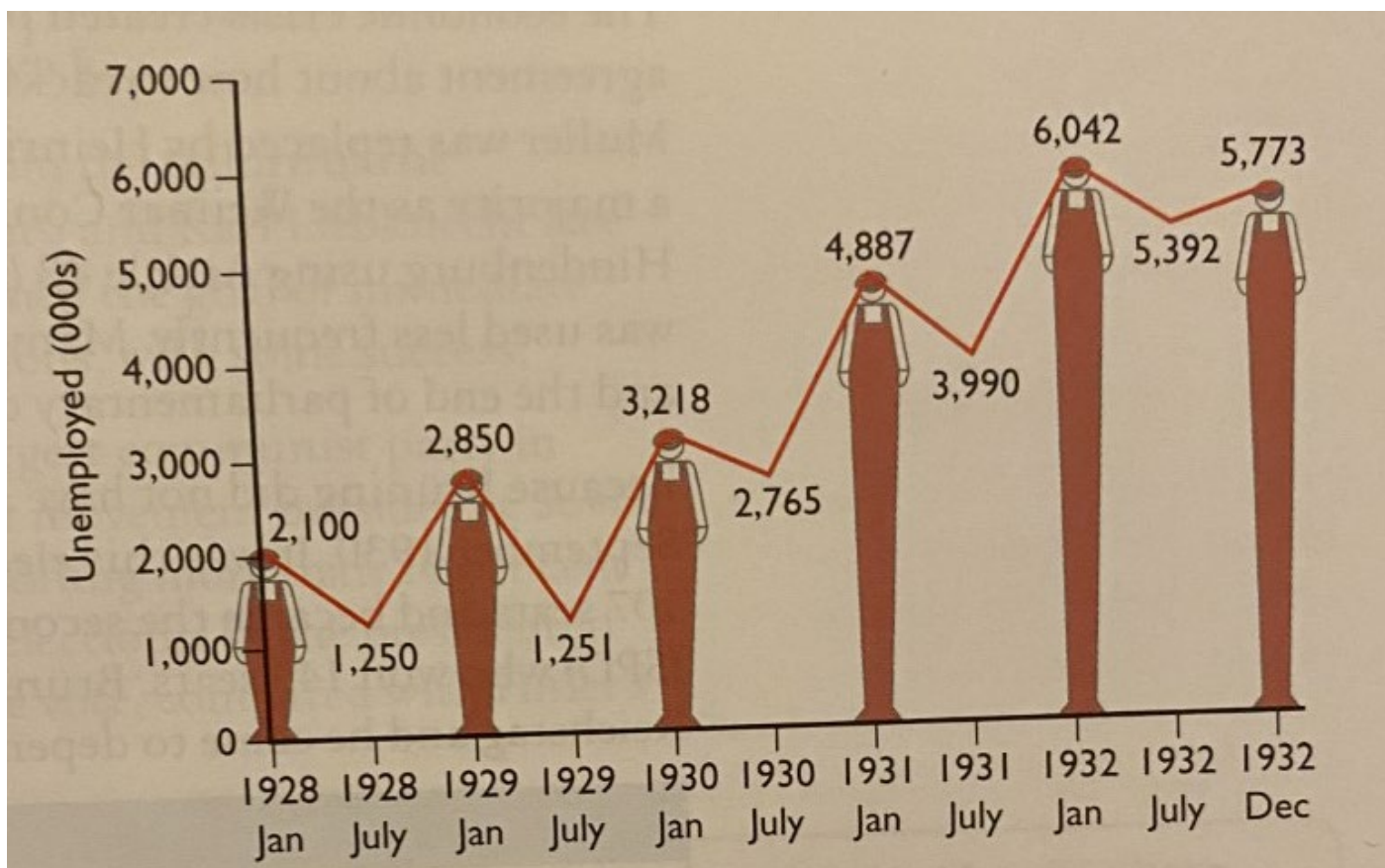


Table 1. Unemployment in Germany, 1928-32

**Task:** What can you learn from table 1 about the impact of the Wall Street Crash on Germany? Try to make at least 3 points.

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The economic crisis created problems for the Weimar government. The new Chancellor, Heinrich Brüning relied on Hindenburg using Article 48- many historians see this as the end of democracy and the Weimar Republic.

Brüning did not have a majority in the Reichstag so he called an election in September 1930. This election gave the Nazis a breakthrough, they won 107 seats and became the second largest party in Germany. Brüning

could not rely on having all of his policies accepted by the Reichstag so he kept relying on President Hindenburg.

This lost him a lot of support, especially with the unemployed. The people of Germany were experiencing food shortages again, the third time in the past 16 years- this led to Brüning's nickname the 'hunger chancellor'. The Chancellor was also to blame for foreign investors withdrawing from Germany, this is because some banks had closed down during the crisis. The only advantage of the economic crisis was that reparations had been suspended.

Brüning resigned in May 1932, but the Nazi party had already been successful in regional general elections. Over the next eight months there was more political and economic turmoil, which led to the extremist parties becoming more violent. The depression had unleashed chaos across Germany, resulting in Hitler becoming Chancellor on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933.

**Task:** Summarise the following boxes of information into no more than one sentence. This will explain why there was growing support for the Nazi party.

Reason for growing support	One sentence...
<b><u>Propaganda</u></b> The Nazis held mass rallies, placed posters in prominent places and displayed banners wherever possible. Joseph Goebbels ensured that the Nazi message was simple and repeated frequently.	
<b><u>Success in elections</u></b> Unemployment had hit all classes and so Hitler and the Nazis tried to appeal to all sections of society. The Nazi message was that the Weimar government had caused the economic crisis.	
<b><u>The presidential election 1932</u></b> During this election, Hitler stood against Hindenburg. The Nazis used modern technology, for example Hitler was able to speak to as many as 5 cities on the same day, flying from 1 venue to the next.	
<b><u>Financial support for the Nazis</u></b> They received funds from leading industrialists (business owners) such as Thyssen, Krupp and Bosch. The industrialists were terrified of the communist threat and were also concerned at the growth of trade union power.	
<b><u>The SA and the communists</u></b> In his speeches, Hitler claimed that only he and the Nazis could provide the strong government that Germany needed. The Nazis used their private army, the SA, to provide protection for their meetings, and to disrupt the meetings of their opponents, especially the communists.	
<b><u>Hitler's electoral campaign</u></b> Hitler had developed the art of public speaking in the early days of the NSDAP. His speeches always attracted many people and helped increase the membership of the Nazi Party. He was fully aware that after the Putsch he had to present himself and his party as law abiding and democratic.	

### Political scheming, 1932-3

**Task:** Put the following events in the correct order to show how Hitler became Chancellor (some have dates to help you).

	Von Papen was determined to regain power, so he made a deal with Hitler where von Papen would be vice-chancellor to Hitler.
	Even after the November 1932 elections, von Papen (Centre Party) still did not have a majority in the Reichstag. This had caused Hindenburg to lose confidence in him- von Papen resigned and was replaced by von Schleicher.
	Hitler was made Chancellor on 30 <sup>th</sup> January 1933.
	The Nazis won 230 seats in the general election on 31 <sup>st</sup> July. This gave the Nazis the most seats out of any other party, so Hitler demanded to be made Chancellor instead of von Papen- Hindenburg refused this.
	Von Papen managed to convince Hindenburg that Hitler would be able to bring stability as Chancellor because he would control him.
	Von Papen dissolved the Reichstag in September and called for new elections in November. This was because there was no majority and he could not form a coalition.

**Task:** Colour code the information to show which individual it is about: *Hitler, Hindenburg, von Papen or von Schleicher*.

Was a member of the Centre Party.	Succeeded von Papen as Chancellor.	Became the President of the Weimar Republic in 1925.
Became Chancellor on 30 <sup>th</sup> January 1933.	Refused to make Hitler Chancellor in 1932.	Fought in the German Army during WWI.
Had the most seats in the Reichstag.	Made a deal with Hitler where he would become vice-Chancellor.	Called for a general election in November 1932.