

The Rise of Adolph Hitler

The rise of Adolf Hitler to power over Germany and its people occurred through a systematic series of events—some legal, some not so. That such a man—a bitter, frustrated artist with a passionate patriotism for Germany and an equally fervent hatred for other races and nationalities—could come to power by 1933 speaks to the desperation of the German people seeking answers to their economic problems.

By 1923, Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party had a membership of 15,000 men, known as storm troopers. Many of them were out-of-work hoodlums and street-types. Armed with hate—as well as machine guns and other weapons—Hitler's Nazis often took to the streets, wearing brown-shirted uniforms bearing an armband of the swastika emblem, a symbol of party unity, to intimidate Jews, communists, and supporters of western-style democracy.

In November of 1923, Hitler attempted to take over the government of Bavaria. His Beer Hall Putsch (*putsch* is German for “revolution”) was an abject failure, with 16 of his storm troopers killed by Bavarian police. Hitler himself was arrested and sentenced to five years for treason.

During his incarceration, Hitler brooded and wrote his life's story, titled *Mein Kampf* (“My Struggle”). In the book, in which Hitler frequently rambled in almost incoherent fashion, he laid out a blueprint of his political goals and aspirations for the future. Among them was his plan for German domination of Europe, including the recovery of territory lost by Germany under the Versailles treaty following World War I.

In his book, Hitler also expressed his hatred for what he considered to be inferior races, including the Jews. He condemned Jewish people as the cause of Germany's problems: political, social, and economic. Hitler also belittled the democracy of the Weimar

Republic, claiming that such an open society eventually led to an open door for communism.

Hitler served less than a year of his sentence before being released from prison. Already he was gaining the support of the German people.

By 1924, the German economy was on its way to recovery. For a while, the

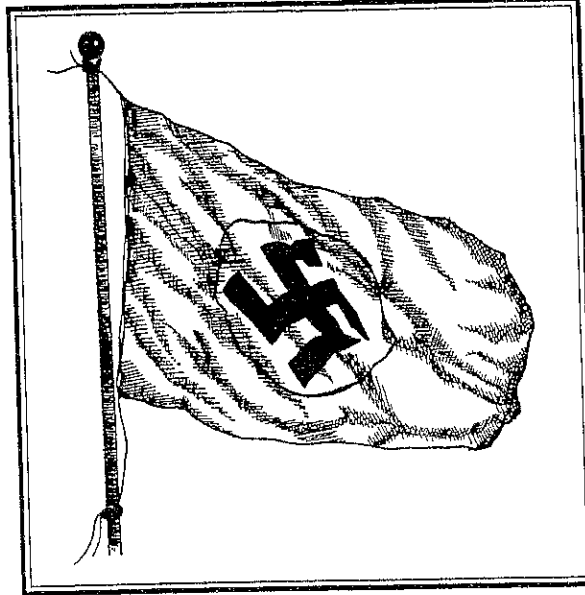
government outlawed the Nazi Party until Hitler convinced German officials that he and his followers would never foment revolution again. Hitler then began a campaign to gain support for his party from the business community, labor unions, industrial leaders, and the rural interests. He often lied, telling each interest what they wanted to hear. By 1929, the Nazi Party was the most significant minority political group in Germany.

At the same time, Hitler was further organizing his followers

into military units designed to terrorize their enemies. He formed a private army of elite followers, known as the *Schutzstaffel*, commonly known as the SS. Such troops were not just street rowdies—they were a well-trained, well-disciplined political force.

When the collapse of the German economy came in 1930, Hitler was ready to point the finger of blame at Jewish bankers, American capitalists, and Russian communists. He spoke out, as he had for years, against the harshness of the Versailles treaty. His voice became the voice of the German people and his popularity grew with each passing crisis.

By 1932, Hitler's National Socialists had become the most powerful political party in Germany. With the German government in disarray, five elections were held that year. By the July election, the Nazi Party held the most seats in the German government. Hitler then offered to form a Nazi-controlled cabinet. By January 30, 1933, the aging German president, Paul von Hindenburg, named Hitler chancellor (prime minister) of Germany. At last, Hitler's dream of ultimate power had become reality.



Adolf Hitler

By Sharon Fabian



¹ Adolf Hitler was the fourth child of a customs official and a farmer's daughter. He was born on April 20, 1898 in Braunau, Austria, a small town across the river from Germany.

² During high school, he did poorly in school and eventually dropped out. He said that he wanted to be an artist.

³ In 1907, Hitler moved to Vienna, Austria, where he planned to attend art school. However, he was not accepted into art school. Hitler remained in Vienna anyway, living among art students.



⁴ In 1913, as World War I was beginning, Hitler moved to Germany and joined the German army. Army records show that he took on dangerous assignments in the army and was awarded medals for bravery.

⁵ As we know, Germany was defeated in World War I. Hitler, like many other Germans, was angry about the defeat and about the conditions imposed on Germany by the Versailles Treaty. The Versailles Treaty said that Germany must pay reparations, or payments for the costs of the war, to other countries.

⁶ Hitler began to attend meetings of a group that agreed with his views, the German Workers Party - which eventually became the Nazi Party.

Paragraphs 7 to 14:

For the complete story: (edHelper subscribers) [click here](#) for printable story and worksheets.

Name _____



Date _____

Adolf Hitler

Sample

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<p>1. Adolf Hitler was born in Germany.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>	<p>2. Hitler wanted to be an art student.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>3. At the time when the Nazi Party was growing, before World War II, nearly all Germans were afraid of Hitler.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>	<p>4. Hitler was killed in battle during World War II.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>5. Hitler was able to rise to power because he had much popular support.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>	<p>6. Hitler became _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Leader of the Nazi Party</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Chancellor of Germany</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Both A and B</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Neither A nor B</p>
<p>7. Hitler's rise to power happened _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Before World War I</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Between the two world wars</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C After World War II</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D In 1898</p>	<p>8. Hitler and many other Germans were angry about _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The threat of another war</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The terms of the Versailles Treaty</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The slow growth of the Nazi Party</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D All of the above</p>



Anti-Fascism

World War II Begins

When Adolf Hitler sent troops against Czechoslovakia, he violated the promise he made at the Munich conference. There he had promised to end his campaign of land annexation if only France and Great Britain would give him the green light to annex the western portion of the Czech Republic, the region known as the Sudetenland.

However, Hitler invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia in March 1939. That year proved significant in the history of the conflict which would in time be referred to as World War II. Nazi aggression continued throughout 1939, as well as the expansion of other totalitarian states such as Italy, Japan, and Russia.

But Hitler's annexation of the whole of Czechoslovakia did not go unnoticed or fail to bring about cries of protest. The British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, who had negotiated with Hitler at Munich, realized he had been lied to and publicly chastised the German leader before the House of Commons.

On March 31, 1939, Chamberlain made it clear that Great Britain would not stand by in the future and allow Hitler to invade other states without punishment. The prime minister stated that if Germany invaded Poland at some later date, both the democratic nations of England and France would intervene against Germany.

Chamberlain's challenge caused Hitler to respond angrily. But he remained unconvinced that either Britain or France would declare war on Germany over Poland.

As the tense weeks of spring passed, other invasions took place. Italy attacked the tiny, defenseless nation of Albania on the Adriatic coast on Good Friday, April 7, 1939. Mussolini's occupation of Albania did not draw the attention of the western democracies, however. They considered the real threat to the future security of Europe to be Adolf Hitler. (Mussolini actually invaded Albania, in part, because of his jealousy over Adolf Hitler's successes against neighboring nation-states.)

Despite threats from England and France, Hitler continued his preparations for the invasion of Poland. By April 3, 1939, he instructed his generals to set the date for the Polish invasion for September 1. Once again, Hitler targeted a struggling democracy as his next victim. But Hitler's plans for invading Poland had one serious potential in his mind. Since Poland's eastern neighbor was Russia, a German invasion might bring direct conflict between the communist state and Hitler's armies.

In anticipation of Germany's invasion plans against Poland, Great Britain's leaders attempted to court Russia as a possible ally against Hitler. Their efforts were lukewarm at best, however, and no alliance was formed in the summer of 1939 between England and Russia.

Instead, Joseph Stalin, the Russian leader, made his own contacts with Hitler. Stalin was not much interested at

that point in allying his state with the western democratic powers, especially after they allowed Hitler at Munich to annex the Sudetenland.

Stalin knew Germany would one day invade Poland. For that reason, the Russian leader suggested a Nonaggression Pact, which was agreed to on August 23, 1939. This agreement eliminated (or so it was thought) any future possibility of Germany and Russia going to war against each other. Both Stalin and Hitler were pleased with the agreement.

This treaty cleared the way for Hitler's invasion of Poland. Within one week of their agreement, Hitler sent his armies into Poland. That date—September 1, 1939—is used to mark the beginning of World War II. And the invasion sparked a dramatic expansion of involved powers. As promised, England and France both declared war on Germany on September 3.



Neville Chamberlain

Research and Write

Using information on these pages and from outside sources, create a timeline of events leading to the start of World War II.



German Civilians Forced To Bury Concentration Camp Victims
1945

Letter Detailing German Concentration Camps

VOCABULARY WORD MAP

DEFINITION or SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

VOCABULARY WORD

WRITE A SENTENCE USING IT MEANINGFULLY

DRAW a PICTURE of IT

VOCABULARY WORD MAP

DEFINITION or SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

VOCABULARY WORD

WRITE A SENTENCE USING IT MEANINGFULLY

DRAW a PICTURE of IT

K W L - V Chart

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know	L What I Learned	V Vocabulary

The Holocaust 1933-1945

1. What was the Holocaust?

systematic forced removal of the Jewish by Adolph Hitler

2. Who were the Nazi's?

National Socialist German Worker's Party, 1919-1945

Hitler's political party

Today it is outlawed

3. Who was the leader of the Nazi Party?

Adolph Hitler

4. Hitler's plan was to create a pure "superior" race. What was this race called?

Aryan race. Blonde hair and blue eyes?

5. What two countries, along with Germany, were part of the Axis Powers?

Italy and Japan

6. Who were the leaders of these two countries?

Benito Mussolini of Italy and Hideki Tojo of Japan. Emperor Hirohito.

7. Before being sent to the camps, where were many people relocated?

Ghettos

8. Describe life in the ghetto.

Jews were allowed to be with their family but were forced into one area of the city. They were imprisoned there and suffered from lack of food and widespread diseases. The most infamous was the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland.

9. How did the Nazi's carry out their plan of genocide against the Jews?

The Final Solution: Hitler's plan to eliminate all of the Jews in Europe.

Gas chambers: Zyklon-B

Genocide means:

10. List five other groups of people who were persecuted by the Germans.

Physically handicapped	Gypsy
Mentally handicapped (unable to care for themselves)	Roma
Communists	Greek
Poles	Slav

11. Name three concentration camps. There were over 100. (Prisoners from over 30 countries.)

Dachau- the first one	Sobibor
Treblinka	Majdanek
Auschwitz	Belzec
Bergen-Belsen	Chelmno

12. What were the two types of concentration camps?

Work and Death

13. Briefly describe the typical conditions of a concentration camp.

14. What was the *Final Solution*?

Hitler's plan to eliminate all the Jews in Europe through extermination.

15. How were people tricked into going into the shower rooms?

Told they were going to get a shower. (Remember the truck and train rides.)

16. Why were experiments performed upon many of the Jews?

Air Force experiments in cold water. Pressure experiments.

17. Why would the Nazi's "choose" the old and the children first?

They were of no use to them and they couldn't work.

18. After arrival at a death camp, what was the procedure that occurred?

Baggage dropped, men to the left, women and children to the right, showers, shaved, tattooed...

19. ~~Children under 12 were typically sent where?~~

Gas chambers

20. Children over 12 were typically sent where?

Work

21. How did the world respond to the Holocaust?

Did nothing at first, it was in Germany.

Not much sympathy for the Jews at first. Whole boatloads of them couldn't find a home.

USA and USSR liberated the camps.

Eisenhower ordered his officers and men to march through the camps.

Townpeople were forced to too.

22. After WWII was over and the world found out about the horrors suffered by the Jewish people, what occurred to many of the Jews?

They had no place to go home to. Their homes were destroyed, they had no money, no food, no relatives to help them.

23. What nation was created as a Homeland for the Jewish people?

Israel

24. Who was upset about this creation and why?

Palestinians, because some of their land was confiscated to create Israel.

25. About 100,000-350,000 people still live who were victims in the camps. As many as 9,000,000 were present in Europe when the Holocaust started. Only 3,000,000 survived. Other estimates are that 78% of the 7.3 million were murdered. About 3,000,000 in the camps. Estimated 1.5 million were children

7,000 Schindler Jews are alive today from the 1300 he saved

If not for the Holocaust, there would be as many as 32 million Jews worldwide, instead of the current 13 million, demographer Professor Sergio Della Pergola has written in a soon-to-be published article.

How Many Jews Were Murdered?

Please consider the below figures as estimates.* Links provide additional information about the life and experiences of Jews in each individual country during the Holocaust.

Country

Pre-war	Jewish Population	Estimated Murdered
Austria	185,000	50,000
Belgium	66,000	25,000
Bohemia/Moravia	118,000	78,000
Bulgaria	50,000	0
Denmark	8,000	60
Estonia	4,500	2,000
Finland	2,000	7
France	350,000	77,000
Germany	565,000	142,000
Greece	75,000	65,000
Hungary	825,000	550,000
Italy	44,500	7,500
Latvia	91,500	70,000
Lithuania	168,000	140,000
Luxembourg	3,500	1,000
Netherlands	140,000	100,000
Norway	1,700	762
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000
Romania	609,000	270,000
Slovakia	89,000	71,000
Soviet Union	3,020,000	1,000,000
Yugoslavia	78,000	60,000
Total:	9,793,700	5,709,329