

The Road to WWII

Hitler's Rise to Power



SS5H6: The student will explain the reasons for America's involvement in World War II.

- a. Describe Germany's aggression in Europe and Japan's aggression in Asia.
- b. Describe major events in the war in both Europe and the Pacific; include Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, D-Day, VE and VJ Days, and the Holocaust.
- d. Identify Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill, Hirohito, Truman, Mussolini, and Hitler.

Background Information:

- **WWI & the Treaty of Versailles:**
- **The Treaty of Versailles was established. It punished Germany and made them pay for the damages they caused. Germany had to borrow money from the U.S.**
- **Germany was bitter because they lost control of land they had conquered and they had to limit their military.**

#1. How was Germany's economy affected by the Great Depression?

- **Germany borrowed money from the U.S. When the U.S. entered into the Great Depression, they recalled the loans they gave to Germany.**
- **Germany's economy took a hit and its currency lost its value!**

The Great Depression & 1930s....

Background Information:

- **Began when the Stock Market Crashed in 1929.**
- **The United States economy and economies in Germany, Italy, Japan, and other European countries were affected.**

#2. Who convinced German citizens to support his radical views? Adolf Hitler

***He did not force them to follow! They were desperate and wanted a leader to solve their problems! He was a very charismatic speaker.**

#3. What political group did he lead?

- The Nazi Party



- **AKA: National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP-abbreviation of German spelling)**

4. Who did Hitler & the Nazis blame for Germany's economic problems? Jews, Slaves, & Gypsies (Roma)

- **#5. Hitler & his followers believed Germans were superior. He wanted to create a “master” race.**
- **He preached of cleansing the world from Non-Christians and inferior races like Jews, etc.**

#6. How did Hitler gain ALL of the governing power, or complete control, in Germany?

- **1st: Chancellor = head of government (over executive branch)**
- **2nd: 1933 – Enabling Act: Gave Hitler Plenary Power; or complete authority to choose to act or not act on different matters;**

The Enabling Act gave the Chancellor full Legislative power for a period of 4 years.

He could make any changes without consulting Parliament.

7. How did the Nazis defeat the Communist party and increase their power?

- **1st: The Reichstag Fire – Nazis burned down the Reichstag Building which belonged to the Communists.**
- **2nd: The fire scared German citizens into thinking there would be a Civil war between the Nazis & the Communists.**
- **3rd: Reichstag Fire Decree – took away many of the Civil rights German citizens had.**

The decree made it illegal to oppose the Nazis.

#8. How do we know Hitler made Germany a dictatorship?

- He had total control of the Executive, Legislative, & Judicial branches of government. Hitler was the President & Chancellor of Germany!