

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler gained political power by promising to improve the German economy and restore Germany to her former glory.

Why people supported Hitler

Hitler was a **charismatic** leader. He could capture people's imaginations and persuade people to believe in him. He was also a skillful **orator**. He could give inspiring speeches that attracted large crowds.

In 1921, Hitler became the leader of the Nazi party. He became the German Chancellor (head of the German government) in 1933. Once in power, Hitler banned all opposition. He used the secret police and the military to **quash** anyone who opposed him. He referred to his one-party government as the Third Reich.

He called himself Fuhrer, which is German for the leader'.

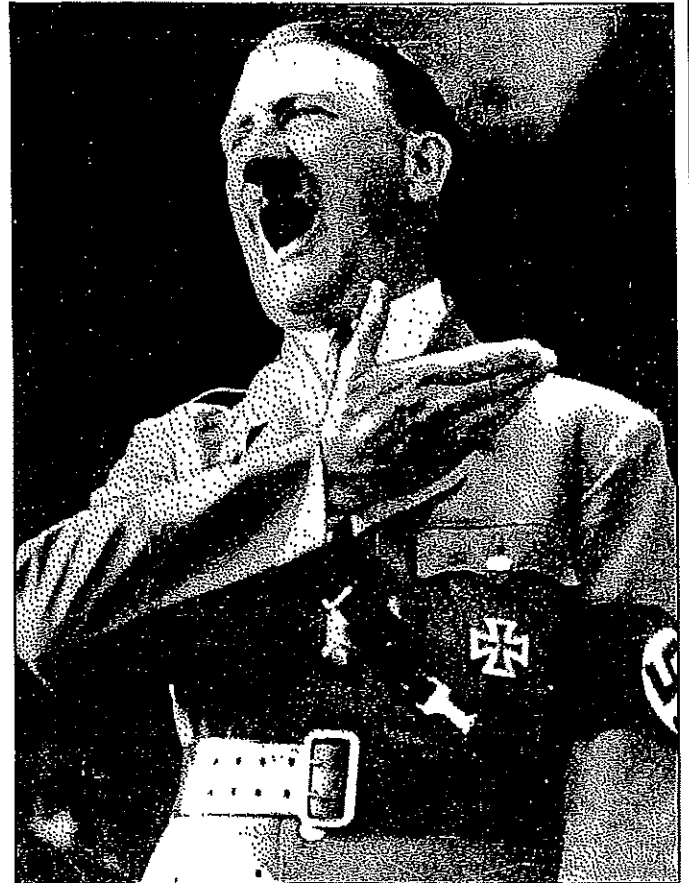
Hitler's goals

Hitler aimed to establish a perfect, superior race. He believed real Germans descended from the Aryans. The Aryans were people with blonde hair and blue eyes. Hitler wanted to rid Germany of Jewish people because he thought they were inferior. He sent millions of Jewish and other non-Aryan people to concentration camps.

Hitler used **propaganda** to spread his beliefs. Propaganda is misleading or incorrect information that persuades people to believe what you want them to believe. Hitler used propaganda to promote his ideas about the perfect race and explain why millions of Jews and non-Aryan people should be persecuted.

In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland because he wanted more land for his expanding **empire**. It was this event that sparked WWII.

Hitler was a **dictator** - he governed with absolute power.



German Chancellor Adolf Hitler giving a speech, July 1940 Courtesy, Australian War Memorial P02018.015

Adolf Hitler and a primary source



You need the Resource sheet, 'Adolf Hitler' to answer the following questions.

- 1 Write each term beside the correct definition:

banned, descended, expanding, inferior, sparked, superior.

Terms	Definitions
	did not allow
	came from
	growing
	started
	not as good as
	better than

- 2 In what year did Hitler become the Nazi Party leader? _____
- 3 What two things did Hitler use to quash opposition?

- 4 What sort of race did Hitler want to establish?

- 5 What did Hitler use to spread his beliefs? _____
- 6 In what year did Hitler invade Poland? _____
- 7 Look at the photo on the Resource sheet and read the caption. The photo is **primary evidence** because it was taken at the time Hitler was giving the speech.

Write three things that you notice about this photo. For example, you could write about the way Hitler is standing.

The National Socialist German Workers' Party

The **Nazi Party** is the shortened name of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. It was an extreme right-wing political party that began in 1919, with only fifty members. Adolf Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party in 1921.

The Nazi Party claimed that the Weimar Republic (the German government) should not have signed the Treaty of Versailles.

The Nazi Party gained popularity by blaming the Weimar Republic for Germany's economic losses. Germany had very high levels of unemployment during the Great Depression. The Nazi Party promised that it could create more employment for German people.

In 1933, the Nazi Party was the largest party in the German parliament. By 1939 when WWII began, it had millions of supporters.

What was the Weimar Republic?

In 1919, a national assembly met in the German town of Weimar and formed a new German constitution. They wanted to form a democratic government for Germany.

A German parliament called the Reichstag was established. Germans could now vote for their own representatives to govern them. This new democracy was named the Weimar Republic.

Crushing of opposition

Hitler insisted that people be loyal to him. He made every German soldier swear an oath of loyalty. Under Hitler's leadership, the Nazi Party made Germany into a police state. Secret police were used to control people's lives. Hitler used the SA (commonly known as Brownshirts), the SS (The Schutztaffel, meaning protective squadron) and the Gestapo to crush any opposition.

The Brownshirts were young unemployed men who beat and killed enemies of the Nazi Party. The SS was a powerful military group set up to protect Hitler. SS members either killed Hitler's opponents or sent them to concentration camps. The Gestapo was the Nazi Party's secret police force. The Gestapo had no respect for individual rights and sent thousands of people to concentration camps.

The Nazi Party

1 Read the Resource sheet, 'The National Socialist German Workers' Party'.

Write **true** or **false** for each statement in the table below.

Statement	True or false?
The Nazi Party is the shortened name of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.	
The Nazi Party was an extreme right-wing political party.	
In 1919, the German government was called the Third Reich.	
In 1933, the Nazi Party was only a small political party.	
The Gestapo was the Nazi Party's secret police force.	
The SS was a powerful military group set up to protect Hitler.	
The Gestapo sent thousands of people to concentration camps.	

2 Use the word bank to complete the information below.

Hitler forced people to be _____ to him. Every German
 _____ had to swear an oath of loyalty to him.
 Under Hitler's _____, the Nazi Party made
 Germany into a _____ state. People's lives were
 _____ by secret police. Hitler used the SA
 (commonly known as _____), the SS (The
 Schutztaffel) and the _____ to crush any opposition.

Word bank

Brownshirts
 controlled
 Gestapo
 leadership
 loyal
 police
 soldier

3 Using the lined sheet on the next page, explain why the popularity and power of the Nazi Party was increased by the Great Depression.