



# **ONE SHOT**

## **REVISION SERIES**

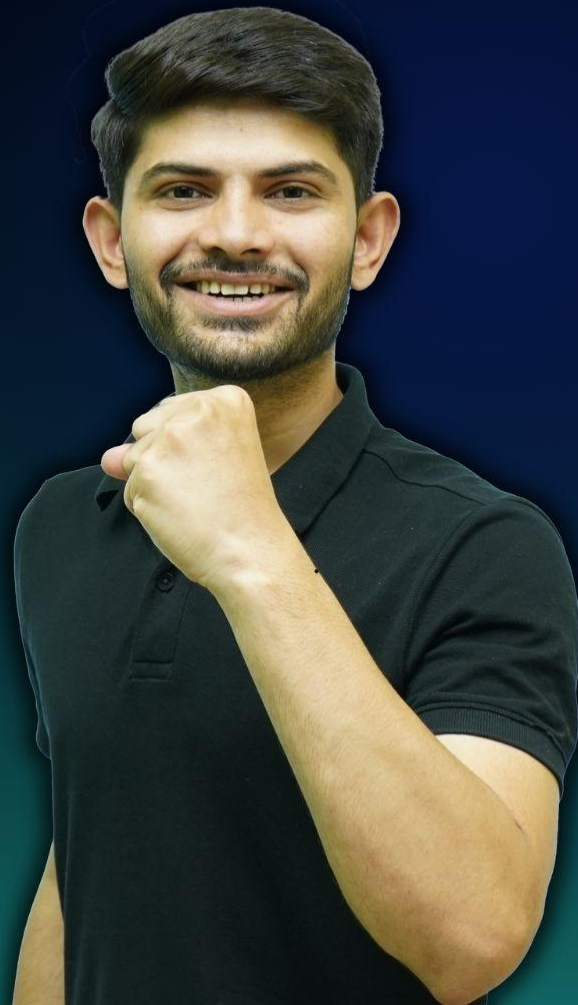
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**CLASS 9**

**HISTORY**

### **NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER**

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# ***ONE SHOT***

## ***REVISION SERIES***

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**Nazism and the Rise of Hitler**

## Introduction

World war - I

World war - II

Hitler → Rise and fall, His acts.

Birth of Weimar Republic and  
issues associated (Political and  
economic situations)

Hitler's rise to power  
(Whole story)

The Nazi world view (Ideas)

Youth, women, and propaganda in Germany

The story of Helmut



Connect with the background

Birth of the Weimar Republic



First world War (1914 - 18)



Central power

v/s

Allies



Result?



- Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium.
- However the Allies, strengthened by the US entry in 1917, won, defeating Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918.



Hitler (centre) and Goebbels (left) leaving after an official meeting, 1932.

Defeat of Imperial Germany



Political impact?



The Weimar Republic was not received well by its own people.



Why?



- National assembly met at Weimar
- German parliament/Reichstag was elected.

- Accepted the peace **treaty at Versailles**
- Political and economic situations.
- Democracy was a young and fragile idea at that time.
- There were inherent defects in Weimar constitution.

## What were inherent defects in Weimar constitution?

- There were **two major defects** in the Weimar constitution, which resulted in its instability and vulnerability to dictatorship.

**Proportional representation.** This created problem for any one party to gain majority, leading to a rule by coalition

**Article 48**, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspended civil rights and rule by decree.

The Weimar Republic dissolved about 20 times by the President within a span of 239 days. **Due to this democratic parliamentary system, crisis in the economy, polity and society, Hitler rose to power.**

## Treaty of Versailles (Signed Between Germany and the Allied Powers)

- Germany lost all its **overseas colonies, a tenth of its population and 13% of its territories.**
- 26% of its coal mines and 75% of its iron mines were given to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
- To weaken its powers, the allied powers **demilitarised Germany.**
- Germany was held responsible for the First World War and the damages suffered by the Allied countries. **(War Guilt Clause)** due to this reason, Germany was forced to pay compensation of £6 billion.
- The resource rich **Rhineland of Germany was occupied** by the Allied armies.

## Effects of the First World War on Germany



### Social Effects

- Due to the harsh impact of the war, the soldiers were placed above civilians.
- There were great stress laid on for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine by the political leaders and media.
- Aggressive war propaganda and national honour resulted in popular support for conservative dictatorship



**Democracy Proved to  
be a Fragile idea**

### Political Effects

- The birth of Weimar Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the **Spartacist League**.
- Soviet-style of government was demanded in Berlin.
- But the uprising was suppressed with the help of war veterans' organisation known as '**Free Corps**'.

### Economic Crisis (Hyperinflation)

- Germany fought the First World War mainly on loans and later had to repay it in gold. This resulted in depletion of gold reserves.
- As Germany refused to pay the loan in 1923, in return France occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr.
- Germany began printing paper currency recklessly and this resulted in over circulation of the paper currency, due to which the value of German mark fell.
- This came to be known as **hyperinflation**, a situation when prices rose phenomenally high.



## Role of America and the years of depression

### Dawes plan



America intervened and bailed Germany out of the crisis.



German investments and industrial recovery were totally dependent on short-term loans, largely from the USA.



### But Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929



- Industrial production was reduced to 40 per cent of the 1929 level.
- The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million.
- Sections of society were filled with the fear of **proletarianisation**, an anxiety of being reduced to the ranks of the working class, or worse still, the unemployed.
- The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices
- People lost confidence in the democratic parliamentary system, which seemed to offer no solutions.



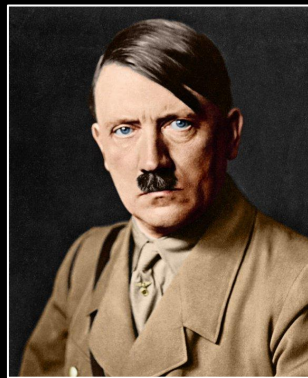
**This all marked the Rise of Hitler to power**

## Hitlers rise to power

### Background



- Born in 1889 in Austria,
- The German defeat horrified him and the Versailles Treaty made him furious.
- He joined a small group called the **German Workers' Party**.
- Renamed it the **National Socialist German Workers' Party**.
- In 1923, Hitler planned to seize control of Bavaria. 🤔
- He failed, was arrested, tried for treason, and later released.
- It was during the Great Depression that Nazism became a mass movement.
- By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 per cent votes.



### Hitler's way

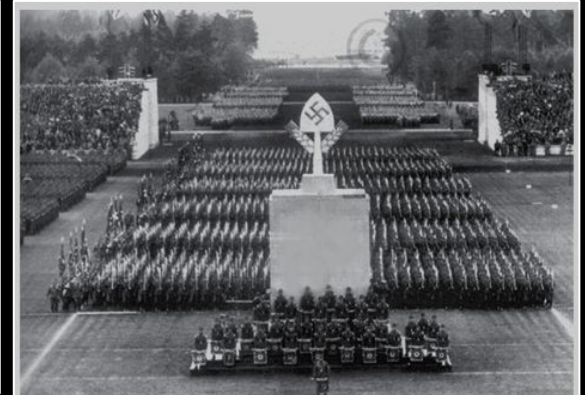
- Powerful speaker
- Promises and hopes
- Style of politics



Hitler being greeted at the Party Congress in Nuremberg in 1938.



***Nuremberg Rally, 1936.***  
Rallies like this were held every year. An important aspect of these was the demonstration of Nazi power as various organisations paraded past Hitler, swore loyalty and listened to his speeches.



***Hitler addressing SA and SS columns.***  
Notice the sweeping and straight columns of people. Such photographs were intended to show the grandeur and power of the Nazi movement.

## The Destruction of Democracy

- 30 Jan, 1933
- Hitler got chancellorship



Hitler set out to dismantle the structures of democratic rule.



- The **Fire Decree of 28 February 1933** indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar constitution.
- The repression of the Communists. 🤨
- On 3 March 1933, the famous **Enabling Act** was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany.
- Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted [**storm troopers, Gestapo, Criminal police and the security service**]

## Reconstruction

- Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist **Hjalmar Schacht**
- ↓
- Full production and full employment through state funded work creation programme
  - **German superhighways** and the people's car—**Volkswagen**

## Foreign policy

- He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933
- Reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936, and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, **One people, One empire, and One leader.**

## Schacht V/S Hitler



Hitler chose war as the way out of the approaching Economic crisis ➡ In sept 1939, Germany invaded Poland.

## Second world war

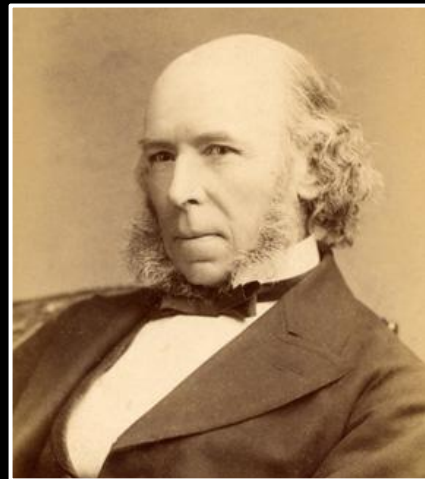
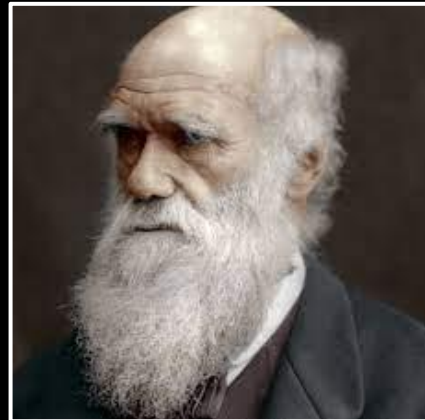


## The Whole Story



## The Nazi World view

- According to his views, there was a **racial hierarchy** that followed and no equality between people.
- In his views, blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were located at the lowest rung. They came to be regarded as an anti-race, the arch-enemies of the Aryans.
- Hitler's Racism borrowed from thinkers like **Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer**.
- Another ideology of Hitler was **Lebensraum**, i.e. living space. He believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement. This would widen the area of his motherland and their resources.



## Establishment of the Racial State



- Once in power, the Nazis quickly began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were seen as '**undesirable**'.
- Hitler considered Blacks, Gypsies, and Jews as racial inferiors. They were persecuted on a wide scale.

**Jews remained the worst suffers :** 🙄

- They were stereotyped as killers of Christ and usurers by the Nazis
- They were made to live in separately marked areas known as ghettos.
- Concentration camps and gas chambers were built to execute them on a larger scale.
- Solution to 'The Jewish problem'. It could be solved only through their total elimination.

The Racial Utopia



War || Genocide

Killing of people under the shadow of war

- Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties behind to be occupied by ethnic Germans brought in from occupied Europe.
- Members of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered in large numbers in order to keep the entire people intellectually and spiritually servile.
- Polish children Who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by 'race experts'.
- If they passed the race tests, they were raised in German families and if not, they were deposited in orphanages where most perished.



## Youth in Nazi Germany

All schools were 'cleansed' and 'purified'.



- Good German children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training.
- School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race.
- The function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.
- Youth organisations were made responsible for educating German youth in the '**the spirit of National Socialism**'.

**Nazi Youth Organisation** :This was founded in 1922, Four year later renamed as Hitler Youth.

All other Youth Organisation were systematically dissolved and finally banned.

| Age           | Organisation |
|---------------|--------------|
| 10 - 14 Years | Jungvolk     |
| 14 - 18 Years | Hitler Youth |
| 18 and above  | Army         |

## The Nazi cult of motherhood

### Teaching

⇒ Women were radically different from men.

### Boys

Aggressive, Masculine  
and Brave hearted.

### Girls

Good mothers and rear pure  
blooded Aryan children.

### *Girls were to be:*

- Become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.
- Maintain the purity of the race,
- Distance themselves from Jews,
- Look after the home, and teach their children Nazi values.

- Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished and those who produced racially desirable children were awarded.
- Those who maintained contact with Jews, Poles, and Russians were paraded through the town with shaved heads, blackened faces and placards hanging around their necks announcing 'I have sullied the honour of the nation.'

## The Art of Propaganda



The Nazi regime used language and media with care, and often to great effect.



- Nazis never used the words 'kill' or 'murder' in their official communications.
- Mass killings were termed **special treatment, final solution (for the Jews), euthanasia (for the disabled), selection and disinfections.**
- **'Evacuation'** meant deporting people to gas chambers.

- Media won the support and helped in popularizing their world-view Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets.
- The Germans, mocked, abused and stereotyped the group identities of their enemies in the posters. Socialists and liberals were represented as weak and degenerate.
- Orthodox Jews were shown with flowing beards wearing kaftans. They were referred to as vermin, rats and pests. Their movements were compared to those of rodents.



## Ordinary people and crimes against humanity

Understand the heading 🧐

Nazi supporters

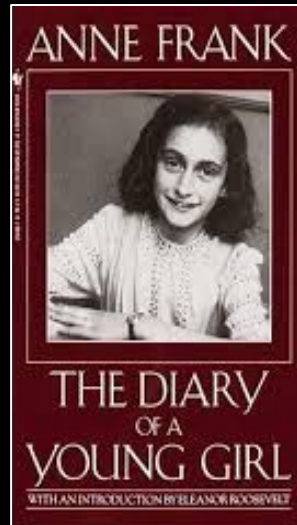
Active resister

Passive onlookers

- Pastor Niemöller
- Charlotte Beradt and her book *Third Reich of Dreams*.
- **Knowledge about the Holocaust.**



The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe; around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. **Records such as diaries, notebooks and archives were carrying the cries of Jews.**



'First they came for the Communists,  
Well, I was not a Communist  
So I said nothing.  
Then they came for the Social Democrats,  
Well, I was not a Social Democrat  
So I did nothing,  
Then they came for the trade unionists,  
But I was not a trade unionist.  
And then they came for the Jews,  
But I was not a Jew ñ so I did little.  
Then when they came for me,  
There was no one left who could stand up for me.'



Pastor Niemöller



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