



World War II

Outcome: The Rise of Adolf Hitler

Young Hitler



The Rise of Adolf Hitler

1. Setting the Stage: World War I

- a. Although an Austrian, Hitler joined the German army in WWI
- b. Hitler was never an officer and was wounded in leg
- c. Temporarily blinded by mustard gas; while in hospital he became convinced that his purpose in life was to “Save Germany”
- d. On Nov 11, 1918, Germany agreed to an armistice ---> angered Hitler
- e. Hitler called those who surrendered “November Criminals”

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1. Setting the Stage: World War I

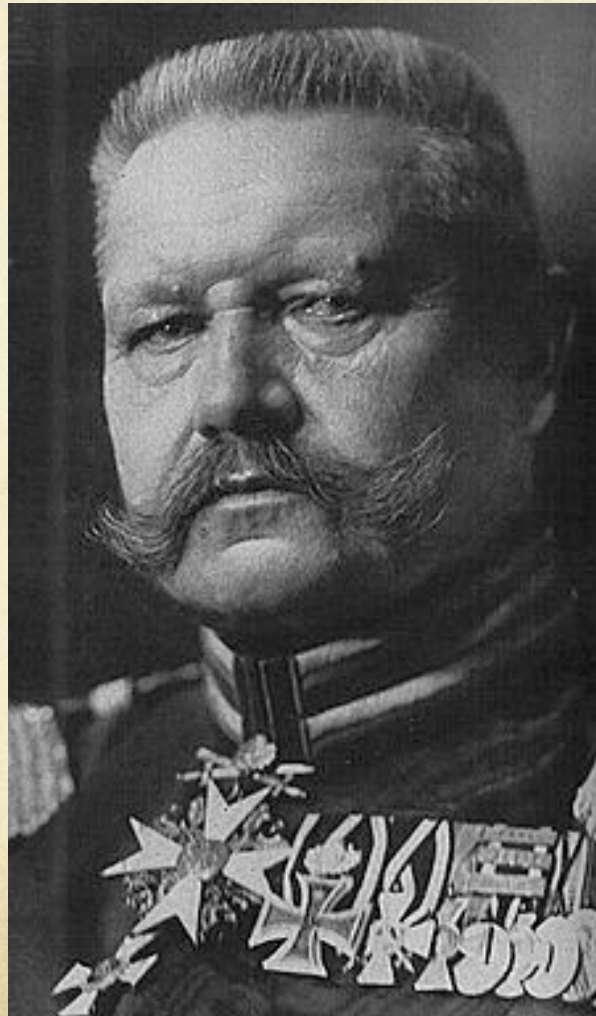
- f. In 1919 Germany forced to accept terms of the Treaty of Versailles:
 - i. War Guilt clause: Blame
 - ii. Loss of land
 - iii. Loss of \$\$\$
 - iv. Disarmament
 - v. Had to form a democracy: Weimar Republic

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2. Rise of the Nazi Party

- a. In 1920, Hitler helps form the Nazi Party (German Nationalist Socialists Party)
- b. Beer Hall Putsch: Hitler and his Nazis try to overthrow the new democracy in a large beer hall in Munich.
- c. 16 of his men are killed. Hitler flees and is later arrested on high treason.
- d. While in prison Hitler writes "Mein Kampf"
- e. Learns lesson: Must destroy democracy from within
- f. Served 8 months and was released

Paul von Hindenburg



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3. Hitler Takes Control

- a. In 1925 Paul von Hindenburg elected President of the Weimar Republic
- b. By 1932 the Nazi Party had become largest party in the Reichstag; 38% majority (Similar to Parliament or Congress)
- c. Hitler was appointed Chancellor in 1933 (2nd in command)
- d. February 1933 the Reichstag burned down; blamed on Communists
- e. Reichstag responded by suppressing communists and others and passed the “Enabling Act” which transferred its power to the president (dissolved power of Reichstag)
- f. 1934 President Von Hindenburg died & Hitler was declared “The Fuhrer”
-The Dictator

Reichstag Today



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Reichstag Fire



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4. Prelude to the Holocaust & World War II

- a. Anti-Semitism, or [hatred of Jews](#), already existed in the hearts of many Europeans
- b. [Nuremberg Laws](#) were passed allowing gov't to legally discriminate against Jews
- c. **Examples of Nuremberg Laws:**
 - i. Jews were stripped of German [citizenship](#) (could no longer vote)
 - ii. [Marriage](#) between [Jews](#) & Germans was forbidden
 - iii. Jews were [excluded](#) from public office, practicing law, medicine, teaching
 - iv. Jews had [curfews](#), had to wear yellow [star](#) for public ID
 - v. Allowed for [open](#) & [legal](#) terrorism against Jews

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- d. This led to a 3 step process:
- i. Development of Jewish ghettos in cities
 - ii. Concentration Camps became sites of forced labor and murder
 - iii. Genocide- mass killing of over 6 million Jews



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e. 1938 Kristallnacht:

- i. The Night of Broken Glass- anti-Semitic riots in Germany and Austria.
- ii. 30,000 Jews rounded up and taken to concentration camps
- iii. Homes, businesses, and synagogues destroyed



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- f. 1939 Hitler invades [Poland](#) and starts [World War II](#)
- g. He continued efforts to unite all people of German blood or Aryans under “[The Master Race](#)”
- h. He called his empire the [Third Reich](#)



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- Result: Hitler used democracy to destroy democracy. Once he became “Der Fuhrer,” he ruled Germany as a [ruthless dictator](#) and used his power to [take over](#) several countries and murder millions.

