

Rise of Nazi Germany

Biography of Hitler

- 1889 - Born in Austria
- 1907 - Moved to Vienna when he was 18
 - German Austrians were just one of the many ethnic groups in Vienna.
 - Yet German Austrians felt superior to Jews, Serbs, Poles, and others.
 - Hitler later developed a fanatical anti-Semitism view, which would play a crucial role later in GER history.
- 1914 - Hitler went to GER to fight in WWI, where he was almost killed.
- 1919 - Joined an extremist party that despised the weak, Weimer Republic.
- 1920 - Became the leader of the Nationalist Socialist Germ Workers (Nazi)
- 1923 - Hitler's attempt to seize power in Munich fails and he is imprisoned.
- 1924 - Hitler served 9 months a 5-year sentence and was released.
- 1933 - Hitler legally becomes Chancellor of Germany.
- 1933 - Hitler is the Dictator of Germany

Beer Hall Putsch (Revolt)

- Munich Germany, 1923
- Led by Hitler and his Nazi party.
- Hitler staged and led a march to the central square in Munich
 - Members of his group locked arms and marched.
 - Goal was to overthrow the Weimer Republic
- Hitler was met by the German military that fired upon the Nazi's.
- Hitler fled, but was later capture and put on public trial.
- Hitler on trial
 - Most people denounced the fact that they had any involvement and said they were innocent; this was not Hitler's approach.
 - Hitler claimed all the responsibility, explaining before a deferential court that the republican government was weak, corrupt, democratic, Jewish, etc.
- Impact of Beer Hall Putsch
 - Gained Support of the Vulnerable People
 - This sort of plain speaking won the silent applause of many people; Hitler's grievances reflected their own.
 - The Nazis later converted the debacle of the "beer hall putsch" into one of the most glorious events in the Nazis' long struggle for power. They celebrated November 8th annually with a return to the famous beer hall and a flourish of nostalgic speeches.
 - Hitler Imprisoned
 - Sentenced to five year, only served 9 months.
 - At this time he wrote, Mein Kampf

Mein Kampf

- Expressed extreme nationalism, racism, and anti-Semitism.
- Hitler urged Germans everywhere to unite into one great nation.
- Main issues discussed
 1. Establish a Dictatorship Legally.
 - A. Learned his lesson from the Beer Hall Putsch
 2. Restore Order and Pride
 - A. Rid Germany of communists and Marxists.
 - B. "Reorganize" the Weimer Republic
 3. Master Race
 - A. Rooted from the Middle Ages where Christian's persecuted Jews because of their difference beliefs.
 - B. He defined a Jew as a person with one Jewish Grandparent.
 4. Solve the Jewish Problem
 - A. Blamed loss of WWI on Jews, Marxists, corrupt politicians, and business leaders.
 5. Achieve *Lebensraum*
 - A. Insisted that Germany must expand to acquire "living space".
 - B. Other races must bow to the Aryan race
- Leadership
 - Hitler said that in order to achieve greatness, they needed a determined leader (Fuhrer).
 - HITLER WAS DETERMINED TO BE THAT LEADER!!!!

Hitler Legally Comes to Power

- After release from jail, he began promoting his ideas through speeches.
- Great Depression
 - Played into the hands of Hitler.
 - People were frustrated with standard of living and unemployment.
 - Feared that Communist would take over the weak government.
- As unemployment rose, Nazi membership grew to almost a million.
- Hitler's program for reform through the Nazi's...
 - Appealed to:
 - Veterans
 - Workers
 - Lower middle classes
 - Small-town Germans
 - Business people.
 - Promised that:
 - To end reparations
 - Create jobs
 - Defy the Versailles treaty by rearming Germany
- Weak government was dominated by two parties in Reichstag (Legislature)

- Communists
- Nazi Party
- Conservative politicians feared Communism and chose to support Hitler because they believed they could control him.
- Hitler was elected Chancellor in 1933 through legal means under the Weimer Constitution.
- Within a year, Hitler was Dictator of Germany.
 - He and his supporters suspended civil rights.
 - Destroyed the socialist and Communists.
 - Banned other political parties.
- Germany became a one party state
 - Like Stalin, Hitler would purge his own party member's by brutally executing the ones who he felt were disloyal.
 - Nazis learned that Hitler demanded unquestionable obedience.

HW: Read the top of page 553 and answer the following questions:

HW: How do the actions of Hitler in these two paragraphs demonstrate his positive attributes as a leader? Remember, having "positive attributes as a leader" can be accomplished through both morally correct actions and immoral actions as well; which can differ between the vast number of cultures around the world. It's a combination of positive attributes, correct morals, and morally based decision-making abilities that define a well-rounded leader.